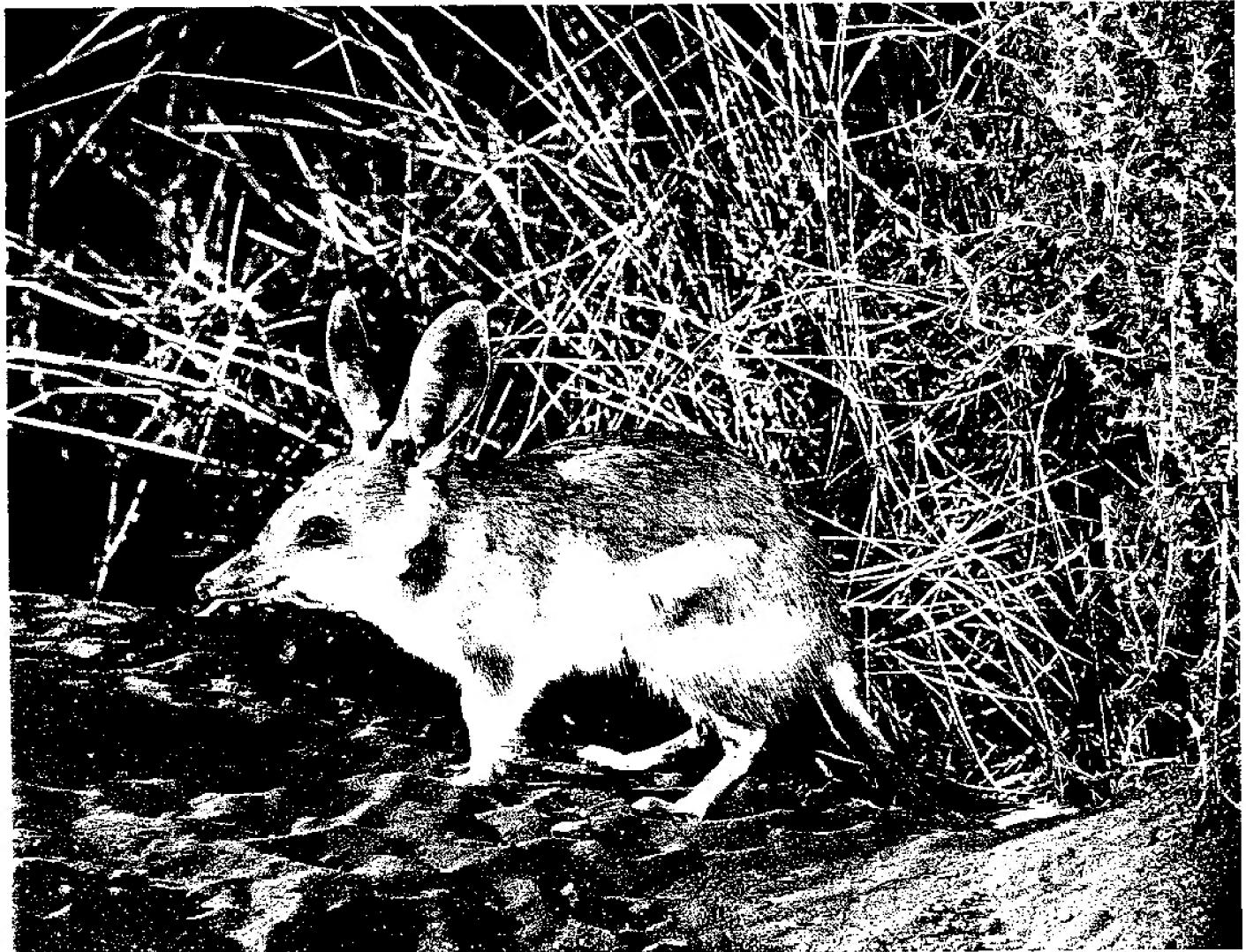




Australian  
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Statistics



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# NORTHERN TERRITORY IN FOCUS 1994

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# **NORTHERN TERRITORY IN FOCUS 1994**

**BOB HARRISON  
STATISTICIAN  
NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
NORTHERN TERRITORY OFFICE**

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## **PREFACE**

Northern Territory in Focus 1994 is the 30th edition of the series previously called the Northern Territory Statistical Summary.

The Northern Territory in Focus presents a comprehensive statistical description of the social, demographic and economic structure of the Northern Territory. The information is present in a way which is informative, easy to read and easy to understand.

ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued co-operation is very much appreciated, without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available for general use by the community. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act.

I would like to thank the businesses, Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government departments and their staff and other organisations who have kindly assisted by providing information for this publication.

**BOB HARRISON**

Statistician  
Northern Territory  
1994

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Symbols and other usages

Standard notations are used throughout this publication, with meanings as follows:

n.a.	Not available
n.e.c.	Not elsewhere classified
n.e.i.	Not elsewhere included
n.e.s.	Not elsewhere stated
n.p.	Not available for separate publication (but included in totals where applicable)
n.y.a.	Not yet available
p	Preliminary figure or series subject to revision
..	Not applicable
	Nil or rounded to zero

— (where a line is drawn across a column between two consecutive figures)  
break in continuity of series

M - males; F - females; T - total

Yearly periods shown as e.g. 1993, refer to the year ended 31 December 1993; those shown as eg 1992-93, refer to the year ended 30 June 1993. Other yearly periods are specifically indicated.

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals shown.

Most of the series are subject to revision.

## Statistical services

### available from ABS

The Darwin Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) maintains an Information Consultancy Service, which provides advice on what products are available to best meet users needs, as well as a library in which all publications of the ABS are available for reference. Business people, government officers, students, and members of the public are invited to make use of these services. ABS publications are also provided to reference and municipal libraries for use by the public under the Library Extension Program.

All publications issued by ABS are listed annually in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (1101.0) which is available from the address below or any ABS Office.

The ABS can make available statistics (including some unpublished data) in a range of media. As well as printed publications, information is also available on microfiche, a variety of computer readable formats and various electronic dissemination methods. Consultants are available to assist in determining the best options available for you.

**Talk to one of our consultants and find out how you can benefit from the latest and most accurate information for your policy and decision making, planning and marketing purposes.**

Telephone (089) 432 111 - our direct Information Services line - for simple enquiries.  
For more complex requests we can refer you to our consultants or write to:

The Northern Territory Statistician  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
GPO Box 3796  
Darwin NT 0801

# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

## PART I- EARLY HISTORY

Excavations of an archaeological site in Kakadu National Park have provided dates of human occupancy reaching back 50 000 years. Sites near Oenpelli, in western Arnhem Land, contain ground-edge axes that were made over 20 000 years ago, making them among the oldest axes in the world.

Prior to European settlement of the Australian continent, the Indigenous people of the Northern Territory conducted regular seasonal trade with Trepang fishermen from the Indonesian archipelago. This contact dates from at least as early as the eighteenth century and resulted in complex and lasting economic, technological and cultural ties.

## PART II - POST EUROPEAN HISTORY (1623-1862)

- 1623 First known European contact with coast by the Dutch ship Arnhem.
- 1644 Abel Tasman surveyed the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- 1803 Matthew Flinders surveyed part of the coastline.
- 1824 Captain J J G Bremer landed at Port Essington and took possession of the northern coast of Australia between 129° and 135° E. longitude. Fort Dundas established on Melville Island.
- 1825 Northern Territory incorporated in New South Wales.
- 1827 Fort Wellington established at Raffles Bay.
- 1829 Fort Dundas and Raffles Bay settlements abandoned.
- 1838 Victoria Settlement at Port Essington settlement established.
- 1839 Commander J C Wickham and Lieutenant J L Stokes continued the charting of the coastline. Port Darwin and the Adelaide and Victoria Rivers were surveyed.
- 1845 The explorer Ludwig Leichhardt reached Port Essington on 17 December 1845, after the first overland journey from Moreton Bay (Brisbane).
- 1849 - Victoria Settlement at Port Essington abandoned.
- 1855 A C Gregory explored the Victoria River, and from there in the following year, crossed the continent to Port Curtis in Queensland.
- 1860 John McDouall Stuart, in an attempt to cross the continent from South to North, reached the centre of the continent and named Central Mount Sturt - subsequently changed to Central Mount Stuart.
- 1862 Stuart reached Chambers Bay on the north coast, after a journey from South Australia of nearly nine months.

## PART III - UNDER CONTROL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (1863-1910)

- 1863 South Australia secured annexation of Northern Territory by Letters Patent.
- 1864 Sales of north coast took place simultaneously in Adelaide and London, the land to be surveyed within five years of purchase. Boyle Travers Finniss, the first Government Resident, selected as the first Palmerston settlement site an area called Escape Cliffs, near the mouth of the Adelaide River. Reports of dissatisfaction reached Adelaide and Finniss was recalled in 1865.
- 1866 J T Manton, who had succeeded Finniss, ordered to abandon the settlement and return to Adelaide.
- 1869 Palmerston (now Darwin) selected as the site for the chief town. G W Goyder appointed Government Resident.
- 1870 Commencement of transcontinental telegraph from Adelaide to Darwin to connect with the submarine cable from Java. Inspector Paul Foelsche arrived at Palmerston with a corporal and nine constables to establish a police force. Doctor J Stokes Millner appointed acting Government Resident. Captain Bloomfield Douglas subsequently appointed Government Resident.

- 1871 Redwater disease introduced by the importation of Brahman cattle from Batavia. The gorge later to be known as Heavitree Gap discovered in the MacDonnell Ranges. A nearby grassed plain containing an apparently permanent waterhole was named Alice Springs and became the main intermediate telegraph station. First overseas telegraphic communication made from Australia to London from Darwin by cable.
- 1872 Transcontinental telegraph line completed and linked with overseas cable. Payable gold struck in the Pine Creek area.
- 1873 Doctor J Stokes Millner appointed Acting Government Resident G B Scott subsequently appointed Resident. First newspaper, Northern Territory Times, published.
- 1874 Recruitment of about two hundred Chinese in Singapore to relieve labour shortage marked the beginning of extensive Chinese immigration. Palmerston (Darwin) Council established.
- 1876 E W Price appointed Government Resident.
- 1877 First school in Northern Territory opened at Palmerston (Darwin) with an enrolment of 34 pupils. Hermannsburg Mission founded 90 miles west of Alice Springs.
- 1878 Work commenced on the southern end of a proposed transcontinental railway line to follow the route of the overland telegraph.
- 1880 Large cattle properties established on the Barkly Tableland. Export trade in live cattle established with Eastern countries.
- 1882 Rich strike of copper at Daly River.
- 1883 G R McMinn appointed acting Government Resident.
- 1884 Pearl-shell discovered in quantity in waters of Port Darwin. J L Parsons appointed Government Resident.
- 1886 Work commenced on the Palmerston-Pine Creek railway. Completed in 1889.
- 1888 Town site of Stuart (now Alice Springs) gazetted.
- 1890 South Australian Government conferred parliamentary franchise on the Northern Territory by including the Territory in the South Australian electorate of Grey. J G Knight appointed Government Resident.
- 1892 C J Dashwood appointed Government Resident. First of the Aboriginal Reserves created.
- 1897 Entire Northern Territory cattle population quarantined because of redwater disease. Palmerston (Darwin) severely damaged by cyclone.
- 1901 Establishment of Commonwealth of Australia. Northern Territory, as part of the electorate of Grey, had representation in the Commonwealth Parliament. Aboriginal people lost the right to vote at Federation.
- 1905 C E Herbert appointed Government Resident.
- 1908 First publication of the Northern Territory classic 'We of the Never Never' by Mrs Jeannie Gunn.
- 1910 S J Mitchell appointed Government Resident and later acted as Administrator.

#### PART IV - UNDER CONTROL OF THE COMMONWEALTH (FROM 1911)

- 1911 *The Northern Territory Acceptance Act (No. 20 of 1910)* provided for the formal transfer of the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January, 1911. Palmerston renamed Darwin. Under the *Northern Territory Administration Act* the system of administration was changed and an Administrator with a staff of nine senior officials was appointed. All parliamentary franchises were revoked. Passing of first *Northern Territory Ordinance* for protection of Aboriginals (adapted by Commonwealth from a South Australian Act passed in 1910). Baldwin Spencer first Chief Protector.
- 1912 J A Gilruth appointed Administrator. Founding of the Australian Inland Mission. Experimental farms established at Batchelor, Daly River and Mataranka.
- 1913 First school opens for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Darwin with 25 students.
- 1914 Opening of a school at Alice Springs - attendance 25 pupils.
- 1915 Darwin Town created.

- 1917 Extension of railway from Pine Creek to Katherine.
- 1918 Serious labour unrest known as the 'Darwin Rebellion' culminated in a mass demonstration against the Administrator, *Aboriginal Ordinance* - prohibiting co-habitation with Aboriginal women by whites and Asiatics.
- 1919 Arrival at Darwin of Captain (Sir) Ross Smith and Lieutenant (Sir) Keith Smith from England by air. Arrival at Darwin from Melbourne of first plane to cross the continent from South to North. H E Carey appointed Director. M S C Smith subsequently appointed Acting Administrator.
- 1921 Colonel E T Leane appointed Acting Administrator. F C Urquhart subsequently appointed Administrator.
- 1922 Northern Territory granted representation in the House of Representatives (the Member to be allowed to take part in debates but to vote only on a motion for the disallowance of any ordinance of the Northern Territory).
- 1926 E C Playford appointed Acting Administrator. North Australia Act divided the Territory at the 20th parallel of latitude into two sections to be administered in the north by a Government Resident at Darwin and in the south by a Government Resident at Alice Springs (then still known as Stuart).
- 1927 Lieutenant-Colonel R H Weddell, Government Resident, North Australia; C A Cawood, Government Resident, Central Australia.
- 1928 Massacre of Aborigines in the Coniston area, Central Australia as a reprisal for the murder of a white miner. J W Bleakley visits the Northern Territory to conduct an inquiry into the status and conditions of indigenous people in northern and central Australia (Report presented 16 January 1929). Inauguration of the Flying Doctor Service by Australia Inland Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. First base established at Cloncurry, Queensland.
- 1929 The railway from Darwin to Katherine extended to Birdum and the Oodnadatta-Alice Springs railway completed. V G Carrington appointed as Government Resident, Central Australia.
- 1930 Resignation of Darwin Town Council as a body in protest against the Commonwealth proposal to introduce adult suffrage for Municipal elections, proposal not implemented. Amy Johnson landed at Darwin completing the first flight from England to Australia by a woman pilot.
- 1931 *North Australia Act* repealed and whole Territory reunited under a single Administrator.
- 1932 Town Council provided first continuous electricity supply in Darwin.
- 1933 Gold found at Tennant Creek. Township of Stuart officially renamed Alice Springs.
- 1934 Darwin airport used for first regular air service between England and Australia. Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service established.
- 1936 Amendment of the *Aboriginal Ordinance* (1918) authorising exemption of certain half-castes from all or any provisions of the ordinance.
- 1937 Payne-Fletcher Report on Territory development submitted. Electricity first distributed in Alice Springs. Darwin Town Council abolished at its own request, and its functions taken over by the Northern Territory Administration. C L A Abbott appointed Administrator.
- 1939 Darwin Town Management Board formed. New road constructed between Darwin and Adelaide River. Minister of Interior (Hon J McEwan) announces that 'future policy regarding Aboriginals will be based on the raising of their status so as to entitle them by right and by qualifications to the ordinary rights of citizenship'. Thereafter Native Affairs Branch established with anthropologist E W P Chinnery, as first Director.
- 1940 Commencement of Stuart and Barkly Highways - completed in 1943. Water first reticulated in Darwin.
- 1942 Darwin was bombed by Japanese on 19 February, the first of 64 air raids lasting until late 1943. Military Administration of Darwin. Civil Administration removed to Alice Springs. Darwin and Adelaide linked by telephone. Water first reticulated in Alice Springs.
- 1945 Resumption of Civil Administration in Darwin.
- 1946 Commonwealth acquired an area embracing Darwin and environs under the Darwin Lands Acquisition Act in order to facilitate re-planning. L H A Giles appointed Acting Administrator. A R Driver subsequently appointed Administrator. First exhibition of Albert Namatjira's paintings in Adelaide.

- 1947 First election of the Northern Territory Legislative Council with power to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Territory. The council to consist of the Administrator, seven official members and six elected members. A new Darwin Town Management Board established to advise the Administrator on matters relating to control, management and welfare of the town.
- 1949 Uranium discovered at Rum Jungle.
- 1951 Alice Springs School of the Air opened. Settlement of Darwin Town Plan leading to issue of firm leases to business people, etc. Death of John Flynn (Flynn of the Inland). F J S Wise appointed Administrator. Territory comes under Minister for Territories with creation of new Commonwealth Department of Territories ( first Minister, Paul Hasluck ).
- 1952 Aerial survey of the entire Territory commenced by Bureau of Mineral Resources. Establishment of Aborigines Benefits Trust Fund to receive royalties from Government activities on reserves.
- 1953 Bill introduces into the Northern Territory Legislative Council to give citizenship rights to certain Aborigines. Working and management of Rum Jungle handed over by Commonwealth to private company. *Welfare Ordinance* which is to be commenced in 1957 passed by Legislative Council marking new directions in welfare in Northern Territory. *Wards Employment Ordinance* passed - not commenced until 1959.
- 1954 Rum Jungle uranium treatment plant officially opened by the Prime Minister.
- 1955 Commonwealth agreement to limit Japanese pearl fleet operations in Northern Australian waters. Opening of Legislative Council building. *Local Government Ordinance* passed by Legislative Council.
- 1956 J C Archer appointed Administrator.
- 1957 Municipality of Darwin created. Mayor and 12 councillors elected.
- 1958 Elected members of the Legislative Council resigned in a body as a protest against government control of the Council. In the subsequent election, all members were returned.
- 1959 Member for the Northern Territory in Federal Parliament given limited voting rights on matters relating solely to the Territory. Darwin proclaimed a city. Death of noted Aboriginal artist Albert Namatjira. Composition of Legislative Council varied to Administrator as President, six nominated official members, three non-official nominated members and eight elected members. Social Security benefits made available for indigenous people on the same basis as other members of community.
- 1960 Forster Committee Report on Agriculture in the Northern Territory presented. Radio transmission commenced in Darwin. First woman, Lyn Berlowitz, elected to the Northern Territory Legislative Council.
- 1961 The Hon R B Nott appointed Administrator.
- 1962 Legislative Council prepared a list of grievances, in the form of a Remonstrance, addressed to the two Houses of the Federal Parliament. Petition presented by the Federal Member for the Northern Territory that the Parliament debate the grievances, but no action taken. Amendments to the Northern Territory Electoral Regulations extended the franchise to all adult Aborigines of Australia in the Northern Territory enabling them to vote in federal elections.
- 1963 Visit by Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Water first reticulated in Tennant Creek. Export abattoirs opened at Darwin and Katherine.
- 1964 R L Dean appointed Administrator. Delegation from Legislative Council to members of Federal Cabinet seeking political advancement for Northern Territory. Social welfare legislation passed to repeal *Welfare Ordinance* removing the concept of wardship for Aborigines. *Licensing Ordinance* amended to remove restraint on Aboriginals obtaining alcohol.
- 1965 Legislation passed to provide for elected or non-official nominated member to replace Administrator as President of the Legislative Council. Open-cut mining of manganese commenced at Groote Eylandt. Mr Harry Chan became the first elected President of the Legislative Council.
- 1966 Shipment of manganese ore from Groote Eylandt to Bell Bay, Tasmania, commenced. Mining of iron ore commenced at Frances Creek. Good rain ended the eight year Central Australian drought. Walkout of Aboriginal employees at Wave Hill Station.

- 1967 The first bulk iron ore shipments were made from Frances Creek through Darwin to Japan. Large scale sorghum production commenced at Tipperary. Kormilda, the first of three colleges for Aboriginal students opened. National referendum approved the ending of constitutional discrimination against Aborigines by a record 90.8 per cent.
- 1968 Member for the Northern Territory in Federal Parliament given full voting rights. Legislation passed to alter the composition of the Legislative Council to 11 elected and six nominated official members. Aborigines at Yirrkala send bark petition to Canberra asking for title to their land.
- 1969 Darwin celebrated its centenary. Contract worth \$35 million let for construction of the new town of Nhulunbuy, part of the \$368 million bauxite-alumina project on Gove Peninsula.
- 1970 The Hon F C Chaney, CBE, AFC appointed Administrator. Rich uranium deposit discovered approximately 240 kms east of Darwin. A \$19 million Darwin port development proposal submitted to Parliament. Gibb committee report on conditions of indigenous people on pastoral properties; recommends grants of land to Aborigines on pastoral properties.
- 1971 Alice Springs celebrated its centenary and became a municipality. Television transmissions commenced in Darwin. Uranium mining operations ceased at Rum Jungle. The first bulk shipment of bauxite was made from Gove Peninsula. Aborigines from Yirrkala take action in NT Supreme Court to try and prevent bauxite mining at Gove - claim dismissed. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people fully included in the Census for the first time.
- 1972 Centenary of Overland Telegraph celebrated. A \$11.2 million contract let for new Alice Springs hospital. Television transmission commenced in Alice Springs.
- 1973 Joint Committee on the Northern Territory appointed to examine Constitutional Reform. J N Nelson, appointed Administrator. Elections held for first National Aboriginal Consultative Committee to present Aboriginal viewpoint. By Letters Patent Mr Justice Woodward was appointed to consider land rights for Aborigines.
- 1974 Darwin Community College opened. Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) from Darwin became available. The Legislative Council replaced by a Legislative Assembly comprising 19 elected members. Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin and parts of its fringe areas on Christmas Day, causing 49 deaths with 16 persons missing at sea. Mr Justice Woodward's second and final report on Aboriginal land rights was presented to the Whitlam Government. Recommendations were accepted in principle and in April 1975 in anticipation of enabling legislation a Judge was appointed as interim (Aboriginal )Land Commissioner.
- 1975 The Darwin Reconstruction Commission constituted to organise the re-development of Darwin in the wake of Cyclone Tracy. The \$100 million Tarcoola to Alice Springs all-weather standard gauge railway commenced.  
 - A 3,238 square km pastoral lease at Wattie Creek (Wave Hill) handed over to the Gurindji tribe. Over 2,000 refugees arrived in Darwin from East Timor. Two senators representing the Northern Territory elected to the Commonwealth Parliament for the first time.
- 1976 His Honour Mr J A England, ED, appointed Administrator of the Northern Territory. The \$1 million all-weather Katherine River Bridge was opened to traffic on 6 February. North Australia Railway service between Darwin and Larrimah withdrawn 30 June. Passing of *Commonwealth Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT)*.
- 1977 On 1 January the Australian Government handed over to the Legislative Assembly certain functions including Local Government, Parks and Wildlife, Traffic, Police, Prisons, Tourism, Consumer Affairs and Emergency Services. On 26 January, the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1976)* was promulgated granting land rights to Aborigines in the Northern Territory. As a result of Legislative Assembly elections in December, the ALP formed the first Assembly Opposition Party. 862 refugees in 24 boats arrived from South-East Asia at Darwin.

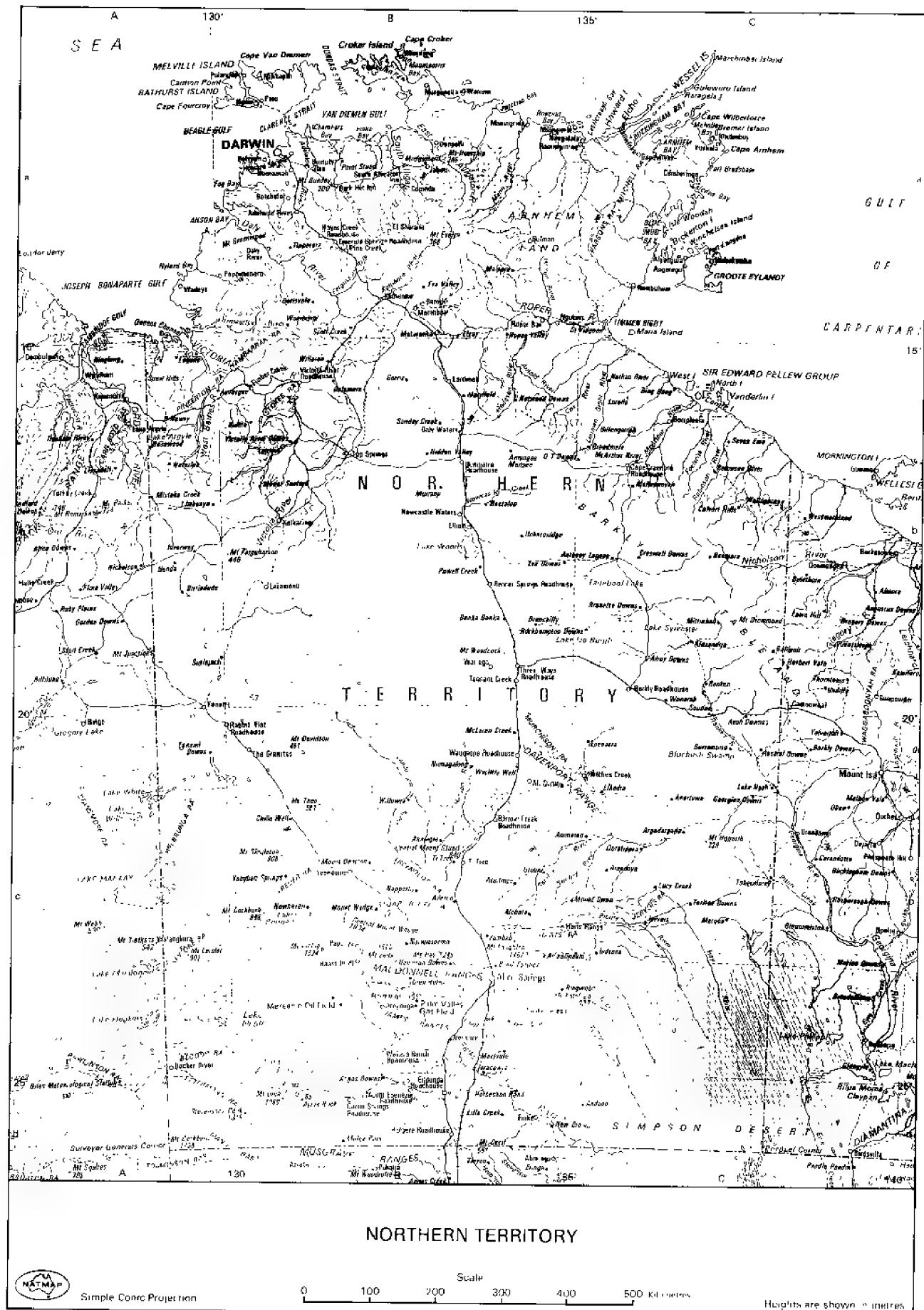
## PART V - SELF GOVERNMENT

- 1978 On 1 July, the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act* came into force establishing the Northern Territory as a body politic under the Crown. This Act also retained provision for the appointment of an Administrator by the Governor-General. A Northern Territory Government comprising Ministers of the Territory was established with full responsibility for a wide range of state-type powers administered through a Northern Territory Public Service and Treasury. Paul Everingham was the first Chief Minister. A Territory flag was raised for the first time on 1 July. 767 refugees in 14 boats arrived at Darwin from South-East Asia.
- 1979 Northern Territory Government accepted responsibility for Health (1 January) and Education (1 July). Historical Fannie Bay Goal replaced by new Berrimah facility. The new Alice Springs Court House completed. First Aboriginal Police Aides graduated. Mining commenced at Narbarlek uranium project. Telecom installed world's first complete solar energy microwave link between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. Casino opened at Darwin in September.
- 1980 New Casuarina Hospital opened in May. Construction of Larrakeyah Patrol Boat facility commenced. Work started on Darwin's Karama sub-division. Dick Ward connector road Darwin to Nightcliff completed. Small ships facility in Frances Bay opened. CLP wins first Territory election since Self-Government - parliament will sit for four years. Standard Gauge Railway between Tarcoola in South Australia and Alice Springs officially opened 9 October. Town of Palmerston, east of Darwin, officially named.
- 1981 Ranger Uranium Mines Pty Ltd commenced open cut mining at Ranger near Jabiru. First Petroleum leases granted at Mereenie in the Amadeus Basin. The town of Jabiru which services the uranium mines, reaches a population 1,022. Commodore Eric Johnson commenced his posting as Administrator of the Northern Territory. Palmerston Development Corporation formed to plan and assist the formation of the new town in the 1973 Acquisition Area.
- 1982 Construction commenced on Palm Valley to Alice Springs \$130 million 150km gas pipeline. Territory's first flyover opens in Darwin. \$4 million roll on/roll off facility completed at Fort Hill Wharf. Katherine Institute for Aboriginal Health established in July, incorporating the Aboriginal Health Division. The Queen opened the Naval Patrol Boat at Larrakeyah. Opening of the Museum of Arts and Sciences at Bullocky Point.
- 1983 Visit of Prince Charles and Princess Diana to the Northern Territory including a visit to the Alice Springs School of the Air. Opening of the \$30 million Casino Resort Hotel at Mindil Beach. Darwin becomes the home base of No 75 Squadron - Mirage Fighters. In November the State Rail Authority of NSW inaugurated the Sydney to Alice Springs service, called the 'Alice in Wonderland'. Northern Territory Legislative Assembly elections held with an additional six electorates, CLP returned with 19 members and ALP 6 members.
- 1984 The Northern Territory Government introduced the new Home Purchase Assistance Scheme. Northern Cement's \$8.5 million Cement Clinker and Quicklime Manufacturing Plant came into operation at Darwin's Quarantine Island.
- 1985 Public wharf built at Nhulunbuy. Telephones installed at Daly River using Telecom's Digital Radio Connector System. Mining for silver, lead and zinc commenced at Woodcutters Mine, near Batchelor. On 26 October, the Uluru Katajuta Aboriginal Land Trust received the title deeds to Uluru National Park.
- 1986 The Darwin Performing Arts Centre opened in May. Jabiru No 1 Offshore Oilfield in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf began production in August. The Granites Gold Mine began production. Amadeus Basin to Darwin Gas Pipeline completed at a cost of \$380 million and measuring 1,500 km.
- 1987 The University College of the Northern Territory opened in the remodelled old Darwin Hospital building at Myilly Point, degree courses are linked to the University of Queensland. The Cosmo Howley Mine near Hayes Creek began gold production. Northern Territory elections, CLP returned with 16 members, ALP 6 members, Nationals 1 and Independents 2. Darwin Fishing Harbour Mooring Basin opened at a cost of \$6.5 million, able to accommodate up to 85 fishing vessels. Darwin's 200 mW gas-fired, Channel Island Power Station fully operational. The first World Solar Challenge - solar powered car race from Darwin to Adelaide.
- 1988 Singapore Airlines becomes the 5th international airline to operate regular weekly services to Darwin. The first Private Hospital opens in Darwin. No 75 Squadron re-equipped with FA-18 Fighters and moves to their new base Tindal near Katherine. Centenary of the proclamation of the Town of Alice Springs.

- 1989 Stage 1 of the Tindal RAAF Base was completed in March and officially opened by the Prime Minister. Defence exercise Kangaroo 89 held in the Top End. The Port of Darwin celebrated 150 years of operation. The Darwin Institute of Technology and the University College of the Northern Territory amalgamated to form the Northern Territory University. The Katherine Gorge was officially handed back to the Jawoyn people and renamed the Nitmiluk National Park. The Hon J H Muirhead QC was appointed Administrator on July 1 replacing Commodore Eric Johnson. The 427 hectare Territory Wildlife Park, just south of Darwin, opened to the public in October.
- 1990 Malaysian Airlines commenced operation in Darwin. The CLP was returned to power in the Northern Territory elections with 14 seats. The ALP holds 9 seats and independent candidates 2. Alec Fong Lim, former Lord Mayor of Darwin, died after a long illness. Triple J radio station went to air in Darwin. Construction commenced on the Darwin airport terminal. The Aviation Museum opened in June with the donation of a B52 bomber from the US Airforce. The second World Solar Car Challenge held - from Darwin to Adelaide.
- 1991 The inaugural Arafura Games involving over 20 sports and 20 teams from Australia and South East Asia were held in Darwin. New terminals at Darwin and Alice Springs airports were opened. A new FM radio station HOT 100 went to air. The Kings Canyon resort in Central Australia was opened. The new Supreme Court building, part of the State Square Project, was opened and the new Parliament House building commenced.
- 1992 Bombing of Darwin 50th Commemorative Year Celebrations. Pacific School Games held in Darwin; hosting around 3000 students from interstate and 45 other nations. Alice Springs Flood Mitigation Dam Project deferred indefinitely. Defence exercise 'Kangaroo 92' held. Completion of Waler Barracks and first stage of military build-up in the north. The 2nd Cavalry Unit relocated to Darwin. Demise of 8DN Radio. George Brown wins landslide victory in Darwin Lord Mayoral elections. Cullen Bay Development commenced. McArthur River Zinc Lead Silver Mining Project underway after NT and Federal Governments hastened approvals as part of the national export development Fast Tracking Program. Listing of Stage 3 of Kakadu National Park which includes Coronation Hill, as a World Heritage Area. Yothu Yindi Aboriginal Rock Band won world recognition and acclaim for their talent and started a revolution in traditional Aboriginal Music. Wearing of cycle helmets became compulsory for all cyclists on 1 July. On June 3, the High Court of Australia brought down its decision in *Mabo and Others v. the State of Queensland*.
- 1993 Year of the Indigenous People celebrations. International Indigenous Youth Conference held in Darwin. Construction of a new jail complex at Alice Springs commenced. Commencement of new Court House in Katherine. A secure Mental Health Facility, located in the ground of Royal Darwin Hospital was commenced. Planning for the development of a Desert Wildlife Park and Botanical Gardens at the base of Mt Gillen, Alice Springs commenced. Henley-on-Todd Regatta at Alice Springs washed out by unseasonable torrential rain. Connellan Airport at Yulara upgraded. The third World Solar Challenge held, starting in Darwin. Settlement of the Kanturpa-Kanttaji land claim, the Jawoyn (Werrenbun) Repeat claim and the Eva Valley claim.  
- Preliminary and environmental studies commenced for the development of new port facilities at East Arm in Darwin Harbour. A sperm whale beached at Casuarina Beach died despite efforts to return it to the sea. (The skeleton was buried so it could be reclaimed and prepared for display, at the Darwin Museum at a later date.)
- 1994 Riding in the open load space of a vehicle was banned on 1 January. Centenary celebrations for women's suffrage in the Northern Territory. Oil discovered in February at Elang No 1 about 500 Km north-west of Darwin in the East Timor Sea.

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 Assistance from Museums and Arts Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin  
 Northern Territory University, Faculty of Arts



# CHAPTER 1

## THE ENVIRONMENT

### Geography

The total area of the Northern Territory is 1,346,200 square kilometres. It has a coastline that is 5,100 kilometres long with a further 2,100 kilometres of coast around off-lying islands. Most of the coast is low-lying and consists mainly of unvegetated mudflats or mangrove swamps with occasional cliffs that rarely exceed 20 metres in height. The large tidal range of the north-western coast and the low gradient of the coastal lowlands means that some of the larger rivers are tidal for more than 100 kilometres upstream from their mouths. There are extensive seasonally flooded coastal plains and black soil plains fringing the river systems.

Inland, the coastal lowlands merge into the dissected sandstone plateaus of Arnhem Land to the north and the granitic and sandstone Ord-Victoria river plateaus to the west, with rounded ridges of largely metamorphic rocks between those plateaus. Much of the Top End (a colloquial term used to describe the land mass of the Northern Territory north of 15° S) is dominated by the craggy sandstone face of the Arnhem escarpment, with its rocky outliers and pockets of rainforest and deep gorges and river channels that drain the water from the escarpment.

The central section of the Northern Territory is formed of shallowly dissected lateritised sandstone ridges and sandplains. To the west there are the Lander dunefields with east-west trending longitudinal dunes and to the east the black clay plains and limestone or sandstone rises of the Barkly Tablelands.

The southern end of the Northern Territory is dominated by the Central Australian Ranges. These consist of granitic, sandstone and quartzic ridges separated by sandplains or stony lowlands. To the north of the MacDonnell Ranges are the deserts consisting of waves of sand dunes, claypans and stony deserts (the Territory's harshest habitat), and to the south are the generally dry riverbeds and sandplains.

### Climate

The tropical north of the Northern Territory has two distinct seasons. The wet season runs officially from 1 October to 30 April and the dry season from May to September. By contrast the southern half is relatively dry for most of the year and experiences cool winters (June to August) and hot summers (December to February), when the area receives the bulk of its small rainfall totals. During the wet season tropical weather systems from the north do sometimes traverse into southern parts.

During the wet season the northern half experiences periods of active monsoonal weather, often one or two months apart, although this can be quite variable. These phases are interspersed with inactive or 'break' periods.

Active monsoonal periods last for a few days to a week or more. These are characterised by cloudy conditions with persistent rain and some heavy showers or storms. Moderate to fresh northwesterly winds dominate. Temperatures are relatively cool during these periods. Break periods in the monsoon are usually longer than the active monsoon phases. They are characterised by light winds, isolated shower and thunderstorm activity and occasional gusty thunderstorm squall lines. These squalls often have gusts which reach 80km/hr. The lightning produced by these storms and squall lines can be spectacular. Darwin alone records about 33,000 lightning flashes per year.

Tropical cyclones can form off the coast anytime from November to April and active monsoon periods are their favoured time for development. Heavy rain and gale to storm force winds can be experienced along the coast if a cyclone is in the vicinity. On average, there are 7.7 days each year when a cyclone exists over the waters around the Northern Territory and cyclones have caused damage over most coastal regions. Darwin has been hit by three major cyclones in the last 100 years. In January 1897 and again in March 1937 cyclones caused severe damage. On Christmas day of 1974 the city of Darwin was devastated by Cyclone Tracy. On that day 49 people were killed and a further 16 went missing at sea. Approximately 90% of houses were damaged or destroyed. During Tracy, wind speed monitoring equipment at Darwin Airport broke when gusts measured about 200km/h and it was estimated that wind gusts exceeded 240km/h during the worst of the cyclone.

Over the southern half the weather situation from October to April can be quite varied. Southeasterly winds and fine conditions predominate, however showers and thunderstorms can be experienced if tropical moisture extends into the area. Occasionally the monsoon trough moves into the southern half, bringing with it monsoonal conditions similar to those experienced in the north. During October and November bushfires are fairly common and are usually ignited by lightning from dry gusty thunderstorms.

From May to September fine conditions predominate throughout the Territory. Winds are typically dry, being light to moderate southeasterlies. In the north the onset of these dry southeasterlies signifies the start of the dry weather. During the dry season very little rain falls over most of the Top End (see Darwin's rainfall), however light showers are fairly common about the northeast coast (see Gove's rainfall), and occasionally develop elsewhere over the northern Top End. Bushfires during this season are common over the northern half, and are fuelled by abundant wet season growth which has been dried by the prevailing dry southeasterlies. Over the southern half, low pressure troughs which move in from the southwest turn the winds northerly and can trigger isolated thunderstorm activity. Under appropriate conditions extensive 'northwest cloud bands' can develop and cause widespread rainfall across the south. These cloud bands form when moisture from the tropical Indian Ocean is directed toward central Australia in the middle levels of the atmosphere.

Cyclone Tracy struck Darwin early on Christmas morning 1974. The passage of Tracy over Darwin resulted in a recorded surface wind speed of 217 km per hour and torrential rain.



A Darwin street showing the aftermath of cyclone Tracy, December 1974.

*Photo: Courtesy of NT Department of Lands and Housing.*

The north west Top End has the highest annual rainfall for the Territory. Darwin's yearly mean is 1,659 mm, whereas Alice Springs receives a yearly mean of 277 mm. Yearly mean rainfall totals, especially across the south, should be viewed with caution since there is a large variation in rainfall from year to year. High rainfall totals during summer result from tropical weather systems which move into the area. During winter north west cloud bands can also cause high totals. These situations sometimes cause flooding: Alice Springs recorded one of its largest floods when it recorded 205 mm in 24 hours in March 1988. In the driest year recorded in the Alice, 1965, only 82mm fell. The southern half was affected by major droughts during years 1895-1903, 1911-1916, 1918-1920, 1939-1945, and 1958-1968.

**TABLE 1.1 LONG TERM MEANS OF MONTHLY RAINFALL TOTALS**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	mm											
Darwin	414	345	309	101	20	1	1	6	17	72	143	229
Gove	263	294	261	195	65	35	19	2	4	9	47	166
Katherine	233	214	163	33	6	2	1	1	6	30	87	194
Tennant Creek	96	102	61	16	9	6	7	2	10	20	32	59
Alice Springs	35	41	36	14	19	14	15	11	9	21	25	37

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

About the coast there is only little variation in mean monthly temperatures throughout the year. Across the northern half temperatures are highest early in the wet season. Southern parts of the Territory experience larger variations of temperature. During summer, temperatures across the south are hot and often exceed 40 degrees, January being the hottest month. Throughout the NT the coldest months are June and July. The highest temperature recorded in the NT was 48.3°C at Finke; the lowest recorded temperature was -7.5°C at Alice Springs.

**TABLE 1.2 LONG TERM MEAN TEMPERATURES**

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		° C											
Darwin	Max	31.8	31.4	31.8	32.6	31.9	30.5	30.4	31.2	32.4	33.1	33.1	32.6
	Min	24.8	24.6	24.4	23.9	22.1	19.9	19.3	20.6	23.1	25.0	25.3	25.2
Gove	Max	32.3	31.5	31.3	31.0	29.9	28.3	27.6	28.5	30.1	31.5	33.2	33.2
	Min	24.5	24.3	23.9	23.1	22.6	21.0	20.4	19.2	19.7	21.1	23.4	24.5
Katherine	Max	35.0	34.3	34.5	34.0	32.1	30.0	30.1	32.5	35.4	37.7	38.0	36.5
	Min	24.0	23.7	22.9	20.4	17.1	14.1	13.2	15.5	19.6	23.6	24.7	24.4
Tennant Creek	Max	36.9	35.9	34.4	31.3	27.7	24.5	24.3	27.6	31.0	34.7	36.5	37.6
	Min	25.0	24.6	23.2	20.1	16.5	12.8	12.0	14.4	17.8	21.6	23.7	24.9
Alice Springs	Max	36.0	34.9	32.5	27.9	22.8	19.8	19.4	22.3	26.6	30.8	33.5	35.4
	Min	21.2	20.6	17.4	12.6	8.4	5.2	4.0	6.1	9.9	14.7	17.8	20.1

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

In the north relative humidities are high during the wet season and lowest at the height of the dry season. In contrast, relative humidities in the south are generally highest in June and lowest in spring and summer.

**TABLE 1.3 LONG TERM MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY**

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>per cent</i>													
Darwin	9am	82	84	83	75	67	63	63	67	71	71	73	77
	3pm	70	72	67	53	43	39	38	41	47	53	59	65
Gove	9am	76	80	79	73	70	70	72	69	66	66	66	70
	3pm	68	72	71	66	64	63	64	59	57	57	57	62
Katherine	9am	77	81	77	64	58	56	52	52	51	56	61	70
	3pm	53	55	49	36	34	31	27	25	25	27	33	44
Tennant Creek	9am	46	51	46	40	41	42	39	31	28	28	33	37
	3pm	28	30	29	26	26	25	22	18	17	17	20	22
Alice Springs	9am	33	38	39	45	56	65	59	46	34	30	28	30
	3pm	20	23	22	25	31	34	30	24	19	18	18	19

*Source:* Bureau of Meteorology

During the 1992/93 wet season (October to April) very much above average falls were recorded through central parts of the NT. Most of this rain fell during late January and early February when two tropical low pressure systems traversed the area. The highest recorded rainfall in this region was at Larrimah, where over 1,300 mm was reported.

Although Darwin recorded a near average wet season, greater than normal thunderstorm activity to the southeast of Darwin brought above average falls to that region. Below average falls were recorded about the eastern Alice Springs district and the north eastern Top End.

Accumulated rainfall totals for the wet season starting October 1993 were generally above average in the north by the end of December. This was largely due to an active monsoon burst over the Top End during the last week in December. (*Source:* Bureau of Meteorology)

**TABLE 1.4 MONTHLY RAINFALL TOTALS, 1993**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>mm</i>												
Darwin	495	271	168	9	17	0	0	3	14	32	91	469
Gove	337	278	122	94	57	30	68	20	0.8	3	23	304
Katherine	320	271	28	1	0.2	0	0	0	0	25	105	297
Tennant Creek	177	358	13	0	18	9	0	0	1	0	45	184
Alice Springs	13	4	14	4	92	37	7	15	34	64	20	41

*Source:* Bureau of Meteorology

## **Vegetation**

The Northern Territory has a rich and diverse landscape, ranging from arid deserts to lush, tropical monsoon forests. The vegetation is basically Australian in character although there is a significant component of the flora derived from the Indo-Malayan regions.

In the Top End, the monsoon climate, the frequency of fires associated with it and the poor soils support eucalypt forests with open savannah understoreys. There are pockets of rainforest either in the gorges of the escarpments or scattered in the surrounding dry woodland around springs and streams and in the margins of rivers and coastal wetlands. Along the coastal waterways mangroves form an impenetrable tangle of dense woodland, while paperbarks form along billabongs and swamps. Further inland the tropical woodlands consist of dense and high spear grass, cycads and pandanus palms. In the dry, spear grass and annual vegetation dies making fuel for fires which blacken the woodland.

Further south the height and density of forest decreases into low woodland. In the Barkly and parts of the Victoria River district savanna and seasonal grasses with scattered shrubs and stunted trees are common.

In the Central Australian Ranges there are pockets of palms, cycads and ghost gums. Along the mainly dry river beds are large river red gums and the sandplains are scattered with bushes, small trees and grasses. In the country surrounding Alice Springs is acacia scrub or 'mulga'. Out in the barren landscape of the deserts are scattered patches of arid grasses and small shrubs such as spinifex and saltbush.

## **Wildlife**

The Top End supports a rich diversity of animal life, with many species characteristic of mangroves, wetlands, monsoon rainforest, Eucalyptus open forests, savannah woodland, sandstone ranges and Acacia tall shrublands.

The coastal areas have the richest mangrove communities in Australia. Animal species occurring in them include mangrove snakes, brushtail possums, the rare false water-rat and a number of characteristic bird species including yellow white-eye, red-headed honeyeater, chestnut rail, and mangrove kingfisher. Many hundreds of thousands of migratory shorebirds visit the beach regions of the Top End, and swamps and inland water bodies every year.

Wetland communities are widespread in the Top End, and include nationally important breeding sites for species such as magpie goose, whistle-ducks and jacanas. Two species of crocodiles, including the dangerous saltwater crocodile, two aquatic file snakes and at least six species of freshwater turtles are reasonably common in Top End waterways.

In the small patches of monsoon rainforests, distinctive jungle birds occur, including the Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Rainbow Pitta and Torresian Imperial-Pigeon. This habitat has declined over the last 50,000 years and most mammal and reptile species have been lost from the formerly more extensive vegetation type.

The Eucalyptus open forests resemble those of southern Australia, and include many of the same animal species, or their close relatives. Residents of the northern eucalypt forests with southern relatives include the Blue-winged Kookaburra, Northern Fantail, Northern Rosella and White-throated Honeyeater. Unlike their southern counterparts, the northern eucalypt forests remain extensive and little changed by European land management practices. Further inland and with lower rainfall, the height of these forests decreases and the trees become more separated, and these savanna woodlands carry a different group of animal species. The prolific growth of grasses in these habitats support an abundant fauna of seed-eating birds, including more than 20 species of finches, parrots, doves and quails, including the endangered Gouldian Finch.

The areas of low mountain sandstone ranges include the Arnhem Land massif of the Top End and the MacDonnell Ranges of central Australia. In these rugged habitats restricted species of mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds occur, including rock-rats, rock-wallabies, rock-possums, the Oenpelli Python, cave geckos and grass-wrens.

Central Australia is characterised by low and unreliable rainfall, and has a very different mix of habitats and wildlife to that of the Top End. Distinctive species of this environment include mammals such as the Marsupial Mole, Red Kangaroo, Mulgara, Hopping Mice and Bilby, reptiles such as Thorny Devil and Woma, and birds such as the Red-capped Robin, Princess Parrot, Bourke Parrot and Budgerigar.

The wildlife of the Northern Territory has had a mixed response to European settlement. About half of the mammal species of central Australia have vanished from that area, and some which have survived are still declining. In contrast habitats of the Top End remain amongst the least modified and most extensive of Australia, and there has been no loss of vertebrates to date. Continued threats to wildlife include changes in fire regimes, feral predators, and high densities of feral and domestic herbivorous mammals.

The Conservation Commission reported that during 1992-93 a total of 189 crocodiles were removed and relocated to crocodile farms. Of these animals 154 were taken from the Darwin Harbour management zone, 15 from East Arnhem, 7 from pastoral properties and Aboriginal lands and 13 from tourist areas.

The management of problem crocodiles in the Darwin Harbour region was privately contracted in September 1993 and the Gove contract was undertaken by the Yirrkala people.

## Parks

There are 90 areas set aside in the Northern Territory as parks and reserves for conservation and recreational purposes. They cover some 4,506,936 hectares or approximately 3.2 per cent of the Territory.

The Territory's parks and reserves fall into seven categories - National Parks, Nature Parks, Marine Parks, Historical Reserves, Conservation Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Game Reserves.

All but two of these parks and reserves are controlled by the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory. Kakadu and Uluru National Parks are controlled by the Australian Nature and Conservation Agency.

On 26 October 1985, the Uluru Kata Tjuta Aboriginal Land Trust received the title deeds to Uluru National Park. As a consequence 200 traditional owners hold inalienable freehold title to the land. Although agreeing to lease the area back to the Commonwealth for 99 years the traditional owners play a major role in managing the park as a tourist facility while protecting areas of spiritual significance.

The Gurig National Park on the Cobourg Peninsula and Nitmiluk National Park (Katherine Gorge) and North Island in the Sir Edward Pellew Group of Islands in the Gulf of Carpentaria, are managed by boards. These consist of traditional owners and NT Government representatives including Conservation Commission staff.

In addition to existing parks, the Northern Territory Government is in the process of acquiring various other areas throughout the Northern Territory, in line with its policy of reserving representative samples of habitat, either for recreation or conservation.

To service the needs of the growing tourist traffic within the state, major road projects have been put into place to upgrade the Kakadu Highway, the West MacDonnell Tourist Loop, and roads in the Litchfield Park. These programs are expected to be completed by 1995.

The Territory Wildlife Park, which opened in October 1989, has continued to expand and develop its exhibits and facilities. Visitor numbers for 1992-93 were 96,278. An Education Resource Centre and the Eagle Flight Deck were officially opened in late 1992 and new visitors facilities were completed in 1993.

Master planning of the site for a Desert Wildlife Park and Botanic Gardens at the base of Mt Gillen in Larapinta Valley, Alice Springs neared completion in 1993. A budget of \$15.3 million has been allowed for this project which will provide an important tourism, education, conservation and research facility focusing on Central Australia. It is planned to open the Park for visitors in April 1996. (*Source:* Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory)

# CHAPTER 2 GOVERNMENT

## Historical Development

In July 1978 the Northern Territory became self-governing and under the *Self-Government Act* many of the powers of the Commonwealth were transferred to the newly formed Territory Government. The Northern Territory employs a unicameral system of government, as does Queensland and the ACT (ie only a lower house with no house of review or senate). There are however some differences in title. The Territory, for example, has a Chief Minister rather than a Premier and an Administrator instead of a Governor.

The development of the current structure dates back to 1825 when the Northern Territory became part of the colony of New South Wales and later, in 1863, of South Australia. Control over the Territory was not transferred to the Commonwealth until 1911. The powers of administering the Territory under the provisions of the Northern Territory (Administration) Act 1910, remained with the Commonwealth until the 30th June 1978.

## Structure

The parliament of the Territory, the Legislative Assembly, has 25 members who are elected for a period of four years. A Ministry currently numbering nine is appointed from Members of the Legislative Assembly and acts as head of a number of departments and authorities which are responsible for the administration of all powers and acts transferred from the Commonwealth. The Speaker of the Parliament is elected by the Members.

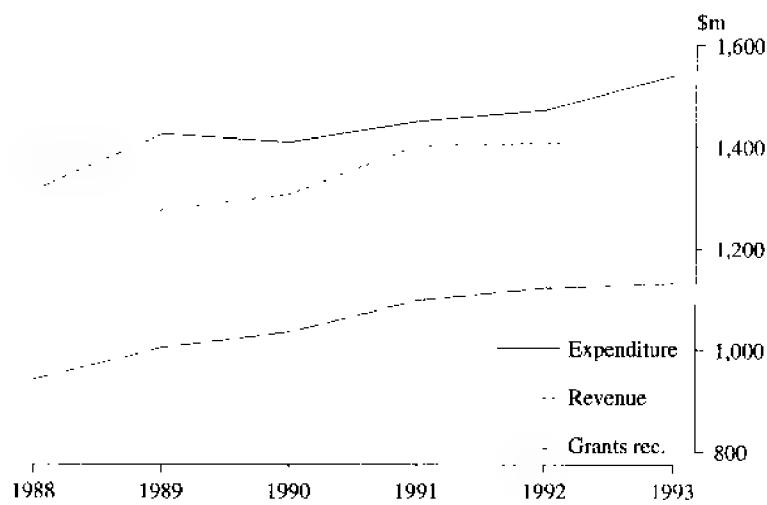
The Territory is represented in the Commonwealth Parliaments by one Member in the House of Representatives and two Senators. The Administrator acts in conjunction with the Commonwealth on matters for which responsibility has not been transferred to the Government of the Territory. Two major matters still under Commonwealth control are the responsibility for the mining of uranium and Aboriginal land matters.

Local government was first established in Darwin in 1957 and subsequently in regional centres. The structure of local government in the Territory is unique with provision for two forms - community government councils and municipal councils. The community government council structure has been adopted by people in smaller settlements and remote areas. In 1994 there were 25 community government councils and 31 other incorporated community associations responsible for local government functions. Combined with the six municipal councils, 80 per cent of the population of the Territory is under the jurisdiction of a form of local government. Municipal councils are elected at intervals of not more than three years but community councils have more flexibility over the electoral process.

## Expenditure and Receipts

The finance and economic policies of the Northern Territory Government are focused on an annual budget. Over the last five years, the NT has required on average 6.7 per cent of total government expenditure to be funded by financing transactions (Graph 2.1 and Table 2.1). Final consumption expenditure (ie gross current expenditure less sales of goods and services) accounts for the largest portion of total outlays at \$898 million or 58 per cent in 1993-94. Interest payments accounted for \$220 million or 14 per cent and gross fixed capital expenditure \$244 million or 16 per cent.

**GRAPH 2.1 NORTHERN TERRITORY REVENUE, EXPENDITURE AND COMMONWEALTH GRANTS RECEIVED**



Note: 1993-94 is a forward estimate  
Source: ABS Catalogue 5501.0

The NT's chief source of revenue is Commonwealth grants. In 1993-94 grants from the Commonwealth comprise 80 per cent (\$1,132 million) of total revenue compared to 45 per cent for the whole of Australia. Australia was much more substantially funded through taxes, fees and fines with a forward estimate of 36 per cent of revenue in 1993-94 compared to only 13 per cent (\$180 million) in the Northern Territory.

**TABLE 2.1 ECONOMIC TRANSACTIONS OF NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT**  
**(\$ million)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1989-90</i>	<i>1990-91</i>	<i>1991-92</i>	<i>1992-93</i>	<i>1993-94(a)</i>
<b>CONSOLIDATED TOTAL</b>						
Gross current expenditure	780	836	904	940	995	1,027
<i>less</i> Sales of goods and services (b)	57	70	89	101	131	129
<i>equals</i> Final consumption expenditure	724	766	815	840	865	898
Interest payments	175	180	184	195	224	220
Subsidies paid to PTEs	109	113	98	72	42	38
Current grants to other governments	9	9	10	13	25	25
Other transfer payments	90	103	111	112	114	124
<i>Total current outlays</i>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>1,305</b>
Expenditure on new fixed assets	237	273	224	228	248	271
<i>plus</i> Expenditure on secondhand assets (net) (c)	-9	-11	-15	-21	-49	-27
<i>equals</i> Gross fixed capital expenditure	228	262	209	206	199	244
Expenditure on land and intangible assets (c)	-6	-2	-3	-1	-2	-1
Capital grants to other governments	3	3	3	1	2	2
Other capital outlays (c)	-16	-11	-17	12	4	-10
<i>Total capital outlays</i>	<b>209</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>Total outlays</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>1,540</b>
Taxes, fees and fines	112	141	154	168	182	180
Net operating surplus of PTEs	44	51	39	46	30	31
Interest received	56	51	43	55	54	41
Grants received-	942	1,005	1,035	1,099	1,123	1,132
<i>for own use</i>	917	976	996	1,055	1,062	1,074
<i>for onpassing</i>	25	29	39	44	61	58
Other revenue	12	27	36	34	19	28
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>1,412</b>
Increase in provisions-	39	38	38	38	33	33
<i>for depreciation</i>	37	36	39	38	33	33
<i>other</i>	2	1	-	-	1	1
Advances received (net)	34	-9	-30	-90	-89	-24
Borrowing (net)	103	118	128	93	133	92
Other financing transactions	-26	3	-35	6	-12	27
<b>Total financing</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>128</b>
Current deficit	30	39	46	-63	-19	-5
Capital deficit	81	74	17	72	51	100
<b>Total deficit</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Net financing requirement</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>119</b>

(a) Forward estimate (b) This item provides an indication of the extent of government charges levied. The charges are offset against gross expenditure in calculating final consumption expenditure and comprise mainly sales to the private sector. However, note that it has not been possible to exclude all inter-agency charges and that some estimated data is included. (c) Net asset sales Note: PTEs refer to Public Trading Enterprises

The major source of taxation revenue in the Territory (Table 2.2) is from the taxes on use of goods and performance of activities (41 per cent). These include motor vehicle taxes and franchise taxes such as petrol, tobacco and alcohol. By contrast the main contributor to tax revenue for the whole of Australia is taxes on property (29 per cent).

**TABLE 2.2 NT GOVERNMENT TAXES, FEES AND FINES BY TYPE  
(\$ million)**

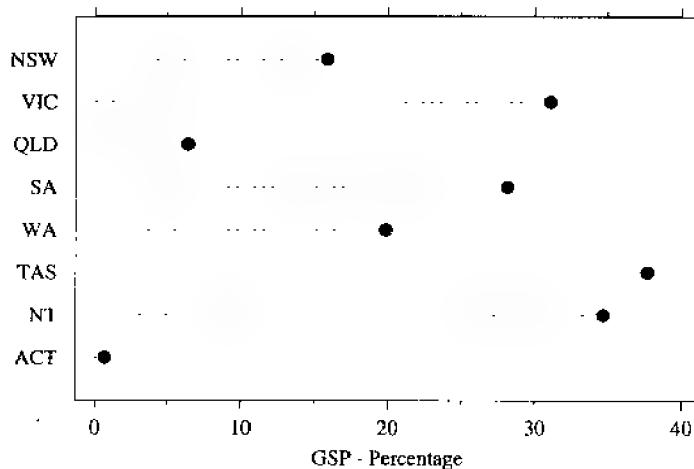
	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Taxes, fees and fines	101	112	141	154	168	182
<i>2 Employers' payroll taxes</i>	32	40	45	46	46	46
<i>3 Taxes on property</i>	12	15	25	20	29	39
33 Taxes on financial and capital transactions	12	15	25	20	29	39
331 Stamp duties	12	15	23	14	18	27
332 Financial institutions' taxes	-	-	3	6	11	11
<i>4 Taxes on provision of goods and services</i>	10	13	13	17	16	17
44 Taxes on gambling	8	11	11	14	13	13
441 Taxes on government lotteries	4	5	5	8	5	6
444 Casino taxes	2	3	1	2	3	2
445 Race betting taxes	2	3	4	4	5	5
449 Taxes on gambling n.e.c.	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 Taxes on insurance	2	2	2	2	3	5
459 Taxes on insurance n.e.c.	2	2	2	2	3	5
<i>5 Taxes on use of goods &amp; performance of activities</i>	42	41	54	67	71	75
51 Motor vehicle taxes	12	13	15	16	17	18
511 Vehicle registration fees and taxes	8	8	9	10	11	11
512 Stamp duty on vehicle registration	3	4	5	4	5	5
513 Drivers' licences	1	1	1	2	2	2
52 Franchise taxes	29	25	36	49	51	52
522 Petroleum products franchise taxes	10	9	14	17	23	22
523 Tobacco franchise taxes	10	11	13	17	18	22
524 Liquor franchise taxes	9	5	10	15	10	7
53 Other taxes on use of goods etc.	1	3	2	3	4	5
<i>9 Fees and fines</i>	4	3	4	4	5	6
91-93 Compulsory fees of which:	2	1	1	2	3	4
94 Fines	2	2	2	2	2	2

Source: ABS Catalogue 5506.0

## Net Financial Position

The net financial position (liabilities less financial assets) of the Territory Government was \$1,451 million at 30 June 1993 (Table 2.3). Of this, \$536 million was related to Territory Public Trading Enterprises. The Territory ratio of net financial position to Gross State Product (GSP) was 34.7 per cent at 30 June 1993 (Graph 2.2). Only one other state, Tasmania had a higher ratio at 37.7 per cent.

**GRAPH 2.2 NET FINANCIAL POSITION OF STATE/TERRITORY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AT 30 JUNE 1993  
(as a percentage of Gross State Product - GSP)**



Source: ABS Catalogue 5513.0

The Commonwealth government share of the total net financial position of all governments increased from 37.9 per cent at 30 June 1992 to 45.5 per cent at 30 June 1993, while the State/Territory government share decreased from 58.6 per cent to 51.7 per cent. The Northern Territory government share decreased from 1.1 per cent to 1.0 per cent.

**TABLE 2.3 NET FINANCIAL POSITION OF GOVERNMENTS**  
 ( \$ million )

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>at 30 June</i>					
	<i>1988</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>
<b>Commonwealth Government</b>	39,860	34,918	32,482	36,590	49,477	67,231
<b>New South Wales</b>						
State Government	21,512	19,407	19,162	19,767	21,697	20,964
State & Local Government	22,702	20,336	21,017	21,527	22,788	21,930
<b>Victoria</b>						
State Government	22,002	23,541	26,076	27,427	30,981	32,073
State & Local Government	22,478	23,956	26,472	27,725	31,845	32,884
<b>Queensland</b>						
State Government	4,911	4,502	4,491	4,125	2,896	1,926
State & Local Government	6,770	6,320	6,314	6,243	5,201	4,115
<b>South Australia</b>						
State Government	4,397	4,197	4,457	5,418	8,143	8,486
State & Local Government	4,545	4,112	4,305	5,369	8,335	8,625
<b>Western Australia</b>						
State Government	6,466	6,409	6,868	7,590	7,923	8,346
State & Local Government	6,563	6,464	6,877	7,556	7,910	8,285
<b>Tasmania</b>						
State Government	2,739	2,673	2,749	3,191	3,180	3,180
State & Local Government	2,856	2,783	2,877	3,301	3,265	3,248
<b>Northern Territory</b>						
Territory Government	1,110	1,198	1,340	1,451	1,413	1,451
Territory & Local Government	1,117	1,209	1,339	1,460	1,416	1,450
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>						
Territory Government	-	162	184	276	137	59
<b>Total Commonwealth, State/Territory &amp; Local Governments</b>	<b>106,891</b>	<b>100,260</b>	<b>101,867</b>	<b>110,047</b>	<b>130,374</b>	<b>147,827</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue 5513.0

# CHAPTER 3

## THE ECONOMY

### Gross State Product

The structure of the Northern Territory economy is described in this chapter. The NT economy is different from that of the other Australian States and Territories due to its historical and natural factors. These differences lie in a relatively large public sector, a rapidly expanding mining sector and a relatively small and narrow manufacturing sector. The unique factors at work in the NT economy are highlighted by examining the components and industry sectors of its Gross State Product (GSP).

GSP is a measure of economic production that is free of duplication, ie it only takes account of the 'value added' in production. It is more formally defined as the total market value of goods and services produced after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production (intermediate consumption) but before deducting consumption of fixed capital. While economic activity at the State/Territory level is measured by GSP, economic activity for the whole of Australia is measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Economic growth in the Northern Territory is subject to considerable year-to-year volatility because of the high relative importance of mining and agricultural commodities to its economy. The value of output for these industries is particularly affected by changes in world commodity prices and the exchange rate. Production from major new resource projects periodically takes GSP to new levels. The decline in nominal GSP in 1991-92 has to be seen in the context of the rapid oil price rise and subsequent fall at the time of the Gulf War. This contributed substantially to the continuing strong growth in GSP in 1990-91 and the subsequent fall from this high level in 1991-92. The Northern Territory economy recorded zero growth at market prices in 1992-93 (partly due to disruptions to oil and uranium production), placing it some way behind the rest of Australia which experienced a reasonable recovery from the low growth rate in 1991-92.

While the Northern Territory's share of Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) usually only amounts to around 1.1 per cent, its contribution per capita is consistently higher than the Australian per capita contribution. In 1992-93, the Northern Territory's contribution per capita was 7.9 per cent greater than the Australian GDP per capita contribution (Table 3.1). Over the last ten years, the Northern Territory's per capita contribution to GSP has, on average, been 12 per cent greater than the Australian per capita contribution.

The Northern Territory's GSP at constant prices was estimated to be \$3,799 million in 1992-93. The greatest contributions came from the gross operating surplus (profit) component of the mining industry, and the wages and salaries component of public administration, defence and community services (Table 3.4). Northern Territory GSP at constant prices is estimated to have decreased by 2.6 per cent during 1992-93 mainly due to the effects on the mining industry mentioned above. This compares to an increase of 3.1 per cent in Australia's GDP for 1992-93 (Graph 3.1).

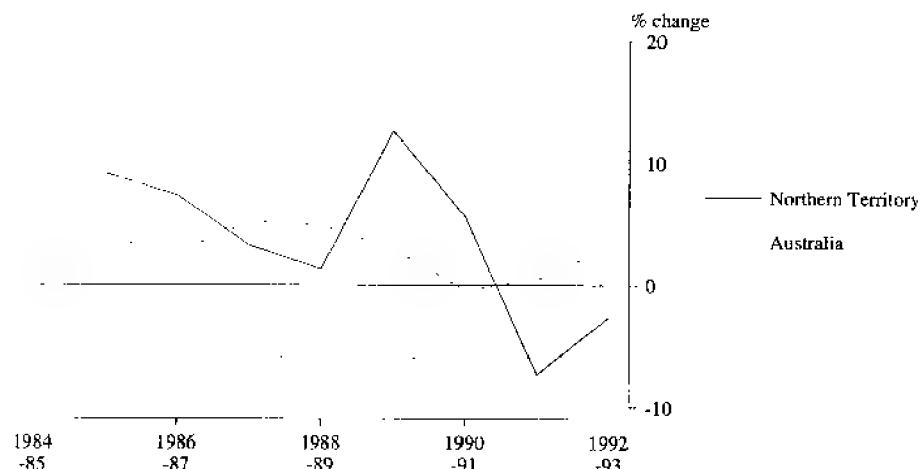
**TABLE 3.1 GROSS STATE AND DOMESTIC PRODUCT PER CAPITA (\$)**

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>At market prices</i>		<i>At average 1989-90 prices</i>	
	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>
1987-88	18,232	20,126	20,989	21,984
1988-89	20,415	21,191	21,609	22,066
1989-90	21,898	24,562	21,898	24,562
1990-91	22,188	26,731	21,502	25,523
1991-92	22,382	25,081	21,346	23,318
1992-93	23,094	24,908	21,785	22,624

Note: Northern Territory GSP at average 1989-90 prices was deflated using State Final Demand for NT at current and 1989-90 prices.

Source: ABS Catalogues 5220.0 & 5204.0

**GRAPH 3.1 PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN GROSS DOMESTIC AND STATE PRODUCT AT AVERAGE 1989-90 PRICES**



Source: ABS Catalogues 5204.0 and 5220.0

**TABLE 3.2 GROSS STATE PRODUCT**

Financial year	At market prices		At average 1989-90 prices	
	\$ million	% change	\$million	% change
1987-88	3,200	8.5	3,495	3.2
1988-89	3,399	6.2	3,539	1.3
1989-90	3,984	17.2	3,984	12.6
1990-91	4,408	10.6	4,209	5.6
1991-92	4,181	-5.1	3,900	-7.3
1992-93	4,182	0	3,799	-2.6

Note: Northern Territory GSP at average 1989-90 prices was deflated using State Final Demand for NT at current and 1989-90 prices

Source: ABS Catalogues 5220.0 & 5242.0

### Contribution by Industry Sector

The industry sectors which provided the greatest contribution to Northern Territory GSP in 1992-93 were mining (\$828 million or 21 per cent), public administration, defence and community services (\$837 million or 21 per cent), wholesale and retail trade (\$451 million or 11 per cent) and construction (\$339 million or 9 per cent). These four industry sectors together provided \$2,455 million or 62 per cent of the Northern Territory GSP in 1992-93, compared to 63 per cent in 1991-92 (Tables 3.3 & 3.4).

**TABLE 3.3 INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST, 1992-93 (PER CENT)**

	NSW	Vic	QLD	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	AUS
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	2	3	5	4	4	6	3	-	3
Mining	2	4	6	2	16	2	21	-	5
Manufacturing	15	19	12	20	11	16	4	3	15
Electricity, gas and water	4	4	4	3	3	6	3	2	4
Construction	6	6	8	6	8	7	9	7	7
Wholesale and retail trade	15	13	15	13	13	15	11	9	14
Transport, storage & communication	9	8	9	8	8	7	8	5	8
Finance, property & business services	12	10	8	9	8	6	7	11	10
Public administration, defence & community services	16	18	17	19	16	19	21	42	18
Recreation, personal & other services	5	4	5	4	4	5	6	5	5
Ownership of dwellings	12	9	9	9	7	9	5	9	10
General Government	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	6	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: ABS Catalogue 5220.0

There are substantial differences in the structure of industry in the Northern Territory when compared to that generally existing across Australia. A comparison of each State and Territory's contribution to GSP by broad industry sector for 1992-93, (Table 3.3) shows the Northern Territory has:

- the highest percentage contribution of all States and Territories from the mining sector (21 per cent) and the second highest contribution from public administration, defence and community services sectors, also at 21 per cent.

- the lowest percentage contribution from ownership of dwellings (5 per cent) and the second lowest contribution from the manufacturing sector (4 per cent).

**TABLE 3.4 GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST, BY INDUSTRY AND PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS (\$ million)**

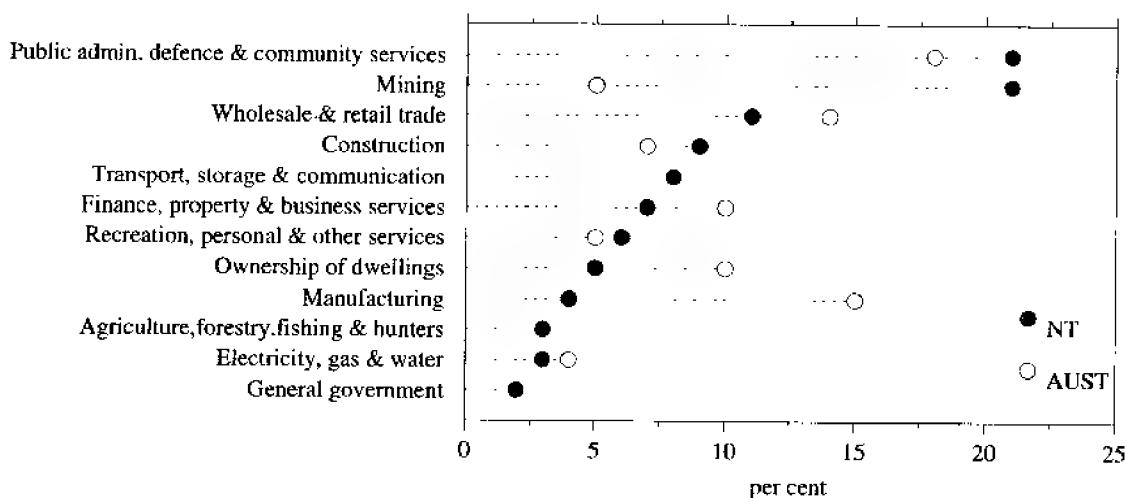
	<i>Wages &amp; salaries</i>	<i>Gross operating surplus</i>	<i>GSP at factor costs</i>
1991-92			
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	33	99	132
Mining	88	764	852
Manufacturing	124	57	181
Electricity, gas & water	42	75	117
Construction	244	111	355
Wholesale & retail trade	289	189	478
Transport, storage & communication	129	185	314
Finance, property & business services	155	105	260
Public administration, defence & community services	805	18	823
Recreation, personal & other services	122	76	198
Ownership of dwellings	..	198	198
General government	..	75	75
Total all industries	2,031	1,952	3,983
1992-93			
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	27	105	132
Mining	127	701	828
Manufacturing	116	60	176
Electricity, gas & water	41	58	99
Construction	225	114	339
Wholesale & retail trade	248	203	451
Transport, storage & communication	122	199	321
Finance, property & business services	154	106	260
Public administration, defence & community services	819	18	837
Recreation, personal & other services	139	82	221
Ownership of dwellings	..	209	209
General government	..	80	80
Total all industries	2,018	1,935	3,953

Source: ABS Catalogue 5220.0

These differences are also highlighted in Graph 3.2 which shows the contribution to GSP by broad industry sector for the Northern Territory and Australia. The main industry differences of note are:

- Mining and Public administration, defence and community services each contributed 21 per cent of GSP towards Northern Territory's economy as compared to 5 and 18 per cent nationally;
- Manufacturing accounts for 4 per cent of GSP as compared to 15 per cent nationally; and
- Dwelling ownership accounts for 5 per cent of GSP as compared to 10 per cent nationally.

**GRAPH 3.2 GROSS STATE PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST  
PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION BY INDUSTRY  
1992-93**



Source: ABS Catalogue 5220.0

For more information about National Accounts refer to the following ABS Publications:  
*Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (5204.0)*  
*Australian National Accounts: State Accounts - Annual (5220.0)*  
*Australian National Accounts: State Accounts - Quarterly (5242.0)*  
*Mining Production, Australia - Annual (8405.0)*

## Components of GSP

In 1992-93, wages and salaries contributed \$2,018 million (or 48 per cent) to the Northern Territory's GSP at market prices (Table 3.5). Gross operating surplus (profit) contributed \$1,935 million (46 per cent) and indirect taxes less subsidies \$229 million (6 per cent). Ten years ago, these contributions were substantially different with wages and salaries comprising 58 per cent, gross operating surplus (profit) comprising 41 per cent, and indirect taxes less subsidies one per cent of the Northern Territory's GSP (Graph 3.3).

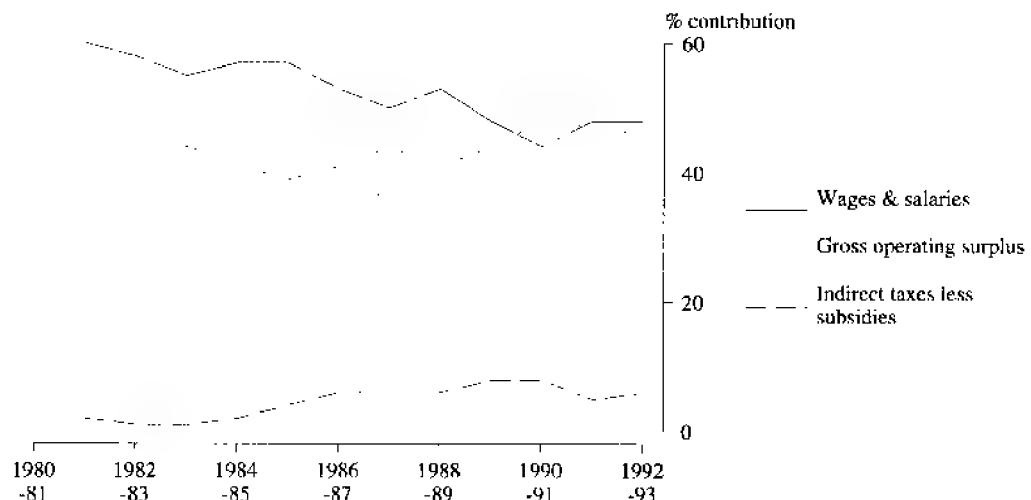
The contribution from the mining industry was mainly related to gross operating surplus (profit) reflecting the large scale, capital intensive processes used and the high value added commodities produced in the Northern Territory. One of the factors related to the volatility in the NT GSP is the changes in the volume and price of oil produced. For example, in 1990-91 Northern Territory produced a total of 4,160 mega litres of crude oil, with a value of \$867.9 million; however in 1991-92 4,240 mega litres were produced but its total value amounted to only \$650.8 million. The large contribution from public administration, defence and community services mainly relates to wages and salaries.

**TABLE 3.5 COMPONENTS OF GROSS STATE PRODUCT**

<i>At Market Prices</i>	<i>Wages &amp; Salaries</i>	<i>Gross operating surplus</i>	<i>GSP at factor costs</i>	<i>Indirect taxes subsidies</i>	<i>GSP</i>
1987-88	1,592	1,413	3,005	195	3,200
1988-89	1,807	1,381	3,188	211	3,399
1989-90	1,914	1,769	3,683	301	3,984
1990-91	1,931	2,114	4,045	363	4,408
1991-92	2,031	1,952	3,983	198	4,181
1992-93	2,018	1,935	3,953	229	4,182

Source: ABS Catalogue 5220.0

**GRAPH 3.3 PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION OF COMPONENTS TO GROSS STATE PRODUCT**



Source: ABS Catalogue 5220.0

# CHAPTER 4 PEOPLE

## Estimated Resident Population

The ABS estimated the resident population of the Northern Territory in June 1992 had reached 167,100. This represented a 8.2 per cent increase over 1986 and a 1.0 per cent increase over 1991 (Table 4.1). Katherine, Palmerston and Alice Springs stand out as the Territory growth areas since 1986. The resident population of Katherine in 1992 was 8,600, an increase of 38.7 per cent since 1986 and 3.6 per cent since 1991. Alice Springs recorded a 9.3 per cent increase since 1986 compared to a 1.2 per cent increase since 1991. Palmerston Town grew by 45.0 per cent between 1986 and 1992. On the other hand Darwin City recorded a decrease of 0.6 per cent since 1986.

**TABLE 4.1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION FOR SELECTED AREAS AS AT 30 JUNE ('000) (a) (b)**

Area	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992(p)
<b>DARWIN STATISTICAL DIVISION</b>							
Darwin City (C)	69.0	69.7	68.1	68.0	68.2	68.2	68.6
Palmerston (T)	6.0	7.0	7.4	7.7	8.0	8.2	8.7
<i>Total Statistical Division</i>	<i>75.4</i>	<i>77.0</i>	<i>75.9</i>	<i>76.0</i>	<i>76.5</i>	<i>76.7</i>	<i>77.6</i>
<b>NT BALANCE STATISTICAL DIVISION</b>							
Alice Springs (T)	22.5	23.1	23.2	23.5	24.0	24.3	24.6
Nhulunbuy	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0
Tennant Creek (T)	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2
Katherine (T)	6.2	6.5	7.4	7.8	8.2	8.3	8.6
Other Areas	42.9	44.2	45.2	46.7	47.8	48.8	49.0
<i>Total Statistical Division</i>	<i>78.8</i>	<i>80.9</i>	<i>83.0</i>	<i>85.0</i>	<i>87.0</i>	<i>88.6</i>	<i>89.4</i>
<b>NORTHERN TERRITORY</b>	<b>154.2</b>	<b>157.9</b>	<b>158.9</b>	<b>161.0</b>	<b>163.5</b>	<b>165.3</b>	<b>167.0</b>

(a) Due to rounding component cells may not add up to their totals.

(b) Estimates have been revised to reflect 1991 boundaries.

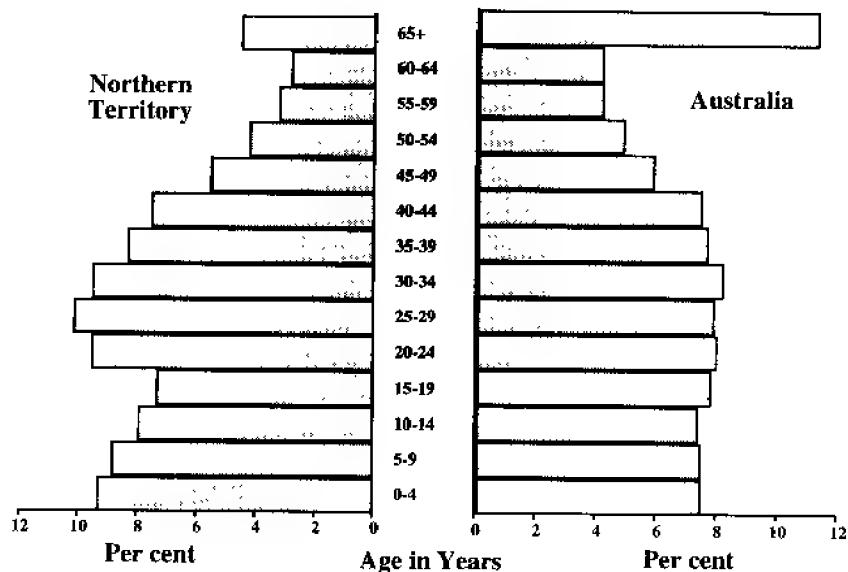
Source: ABS Catalogue 3201.0 and unpublished data.

## 1991 Census Counts

The 1991 Census, conducted on 6 August 1991, recorded 175,891 people in the Northern Territory. This was an increase of 21,043 people (13.6 per cent) over the 1986 Census. Of these 175,891 people, 16,317 were visitors to the Territory from interstate and 3,086 visitors from overseas. On the night of the Census there were 4,600 Territorians temporarily interstate or overseas.

A feature of the Northern Territory is the youthfulness of its population. At the time of the 1991 Census the median age of Territorians was 28 years. This compares to a median age of close to 32 years for Australia. The Territory recorded the highest percentage of children aged 0 - 4 years (9.4 per cent) for all States and Territories. By contrast, only 4.6 per cent of the Territory's population was aged over 65 years. This compares with 11.3 per cent nationally.

**GRAPH 4.1 AGE DISTRIBUTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY AND AUSTRALIA, 1991**



*Source: ABS 1991 Census Data*

Males make up 52.2 per cent of the Territory's population. There were 7,660 more males (91,798) than females (84,138) giving a sex ratio of 109 males per 100 females for those people counted.

## Vitals

There were 3,742 live births registered in the Northern Territory during 1992. Of these, 1,913 were males and 1,829 were females. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 36.2 per cent of these live births.

There were 776 recorded deaths in the Territory in 1992. The median age at death in the Northern Territory in 1992 was 54.3 years for males and 59.5 years for females. This compares nationally with males at 72.6 and females at 79.3 years of age. Even though indigenous people make up only 22.7 per cent of the Territory population they accounted for more than half (51.2 per cent) of all deaths.

The infant mortality rate in 1992 stood at 15.5 per 1,000 live births which was more than double that of other States and Territories. However the Territory's infant mortality rate is affected, more than elsewhere, by the higher infant mortality rate among Australia's indigenous people (ABS Catalogue 3101.0).

Cause of death statistics show that malignant neoplasms (cancers) (20.8 per cent) were the main cause of death among Territorians in 1992 (Table 4.2). Ischaemic heart disease was the second most common cause of death at 11.5 per cent followed by accidents (10.2 per cent). More than half of the accidental deaths were the result of motor vehicle accidents.

**TABLE 4.2 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATHS BY ABORIGINALITY, 1992**

Cause of death (a)	Number of deaths			Proportion of deaths %		
	Indigenous	Non- Indigenous	Total	Indigenous	Non- Indigenous	Total
Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (140-208)	55	106	161	13.9	28.0	20.8
Ischaemic heart disease (410-414)	41	48	89	10.3	12.7	11.5
<i>Accidents (800-949)</i>						
Non-motor vehicle accidents (800-809, 820-949)	13	26	39	3.3	6.9	5.0
Motor vehicle accidents (810-819)	25	15	40	6.3	4.0	5.2
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease & allied conditions (including asthma, emphysema & bronchitis) (490-496)	30	26	56	7.6	6.9	7.2
Diseases of pulmonary circulation and other forms of heart disease (415,416,420-429)	23	22	45	5.8	5.8	5.8
Pneumonia and influenza (480-487)	29	5	34	7.3	1.3	4.4
Infectious and parasitic diseases (001-139)	26	7	33	6.6	1.8	4.3
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions (780-799)	16	12	28	4.0	3.2	3.6
Cerebrovascular disease (stroke) (430-438)	15	13	28	3.8	3.4	3.6
Diabetes mellitus (250)	17	9	26	4.3	2.4	3.4
Suicide (E950-E959)	7	16	23	1.8	4.2	3.0
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (760-779)	11	10	21	2.8	2.6	2.7
All other causes	89	64	153	22.4	16.9	19.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) International Classification of Diseases for Cause of Death coding adopted by World Health Organisation.

Source: ABS, Darwin

Among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population malignant neoplasms also rate as the highest cause of death (13.9 per cent) followed by ischaemic heart disease (10.3 per cent) and accidents (9.6 per cent). A higher proportion of deaths in the indigenous population resulted from motor vehicles accidents (6.3 per cent) by comparison with the non-indigenous population (4 per cent). Pneumonia and influenza (7.3 per cent) and infectious and parasitic diseases (6.6 per cent) accounted for a higher proportion of deaths among indigenous people than non-indigenous people.

There were 860 marriages recorded in the Territory during 1992, resulting in a crude marriage rate of 5.1 marriages per 1,000 persons. This is the lowest of any State or Territory. The national rate in 1992 was 6.6 per 1,000 residents.

In the Northern Territory, 345 divorces were granted in 1992. This resulted in a crude divorce rate of 2.1 per 1,000. The median duration of marriage in the Northern Territory was 10.3 years compared with 10.5 for Australia.

## **Overseas Born**

The 1991 Census results show that 32,713 people in the Northern Territory (18.6 per cent) indicated that they were born outside of Australia. This figure also included 3,086 visitors from overseas who were visiting the Territory at the time of the Census.

The origin of people born overseas was evenly divided between English speaking countries (50.0 per cent) and non-English speaking countries (49.9 per cent). The major countries of origin were: the United Kingdom (30.7 per cent of all overseas born), New Zealand (11.7 per cent), Greece (6.6 per cent), Philippines (4.9 per cent), Indonesia (4.7 per cent) and Germany (4.5 per cent).

## **The Territory's Indigenous People**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are an important part of the history and culture of the Northern Territory. At the time of European settlement it was estimated that 50,000 indigenous people were living in what is now known as the Northern Territory (Radcliffe-Brown, 1930). Until Section 127 of the Constitution was repealed in 1967 indigenous people were excluded from official population figures for States and Territories. Since the 1971 Census the Australian Bureau of Statistics has made considerable efforts to provide an accurate picture of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander society through the five yearly Census and other surveys. In 1994, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, is conducting the first national survey of indigenous Australians.

At the 1991 Census 39,910 people identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing 22.7 per cent of the Northern Territory's population. Of these, 623 identified themselves as Torres Strait Islander. Since the 1986 Census there has been an increase of just under 15 per cent in the number of indigenous people counted in the Northern Territory. In 1991, 15 per cent of the indigenous population of Australia lived in the Northern Territory.

A high percentage of indigenous people in the Territory live in rural and remote areas. Over one quarter (26.3 per cent) of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders reside in communities with populations between 200 and 999, compared with 2.4 per cent of non-indigenous people. Most non-indigenous people (77.4 per cent) live in urban centres of more than 1,000 persons. This compares with only 34.6 per cent of the indigenous population. More indigenous (39.1 per cent) than non- indigenous people (19.1 per cent) live in the rural remainder of the Territory.

There were marked differences in the age structure of the indigenous and non-indigenous population in the Northern Territory. The major differences were recorded in the younger and older age groups. In the indigenous population 41.4 per cent were aged less than 15 years by comparison with 22.6 per cent of non-indigenous people. Just over 6 per cent of indigenous people were aged 55 or over, compared with 12 per cent of non-indigenous people.

Multi-family households are a feature of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. From the 1991 Census, 37.3 per cent of households (excluding lone person households) were multi-family units, compared with 1.8 per cent in non-indigenous families.

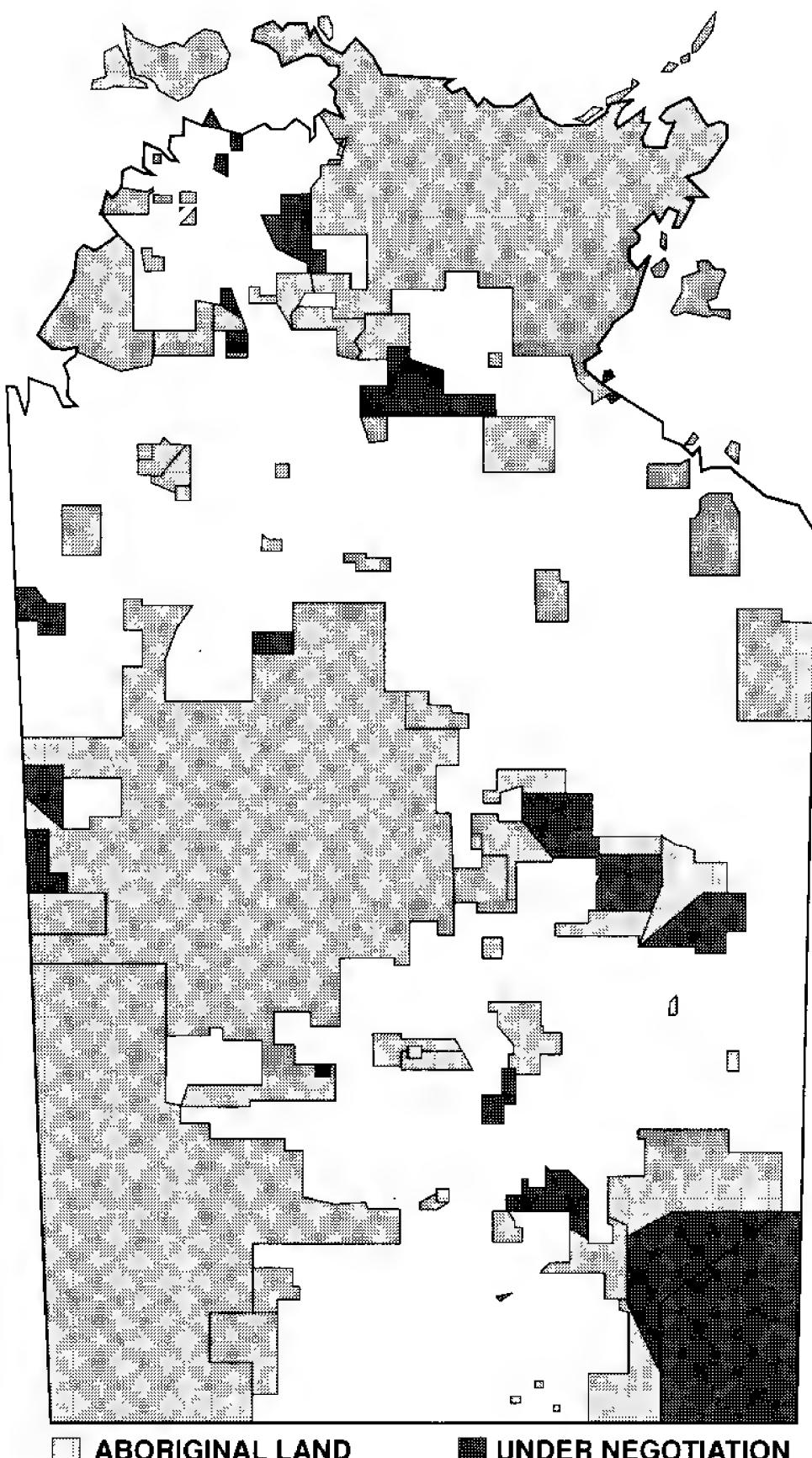
**TABLE 4.3 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS (AGED 5 YEARS AND OVER)  
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH**

	<i>Persons speaking an indigenous language at home</i>		<i>Proficiency in English (%)</i>				
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Very well</i>	<i>Well</i>	<i>Not well</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Not stated</i>
NSW	573	1.0	76.8	10.6	5.8	1.2	5.6
Vic	158	1.2	81.6	10.1	5.7	-	2.5
Qld	6,004	10.3	34.3	42.2	17.1	3.3	3.1
SA	3,143	23.5	26.7	26.6	33.3	11.5	1.9
WA	7,823	23.2	37.2	40.5	17.3	3.2	1.8
Tas	17	0.2	70.5	11.8	17.6	-	-
<b>NT</b>	<b>25,753</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>
ACT	28	1.9	100.0	-	-	-	-
Australia	43,499	19.9	26.2	39.4	24.7	7.9	1.7

Source: ABS Catalogue 2740.0

The 1991 Census indicated that 79 per cent of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (aged 5 and over) in the Northern Territory spoke an indigenous language at home. This is markedly higher than in any other State or Territory (Table 4.3). Of these, 19.4 per cent indicated that they also spoke English 'very well'. Just over 40 per cent recorded speaking English 'well', 28.3 per cent stated they could not speak English well and 10.2 per cent could not speak English at all.

# Aboriginal Land in the Northern Territory



## ABORIGINAL LAND CLAIM SUMMARY

as at 30 June 1993

<b>Lodged</b>		146
Less duplications, amalgamations, withdrawals, exclusions scheduled	28	-28
		<b>118</b>
<b>Completed</b>		
Granted in whole or part		37
Finalised by legislation		3
Settled in whole (not including 2 settled in part)	1	-41
<b>Total Outstanding</b>		<b>77</b>
<b>CLAIMS IN PROGRESS</b>		
<b>Reports with the Minister:</b> Lake Amadeus, Brookes Soak, NW Simpson Harts Range, Amanbidji and North Simpson.		
(Note: Upper Daly and Mataranka partially granted but balance remains with Minister)	6	
<b>Reports Being Written:</b> Fitzroy PL and Victoria River	2	
<b>Part Heard:</b> Palm Valley, Jawoyn (Gimbat)/Alligator Rivers II, Warnarrwarnarr-barranyi (Borroloola No 2 Repeat), Gimbat Resumption and Waterfall Creek	4	
<b>Settlement in Progress:</b> Wulna, Kanturrrpa/Kanttaji *, Wickham River (and Waramungu Stage 3), Kenbi	4	-16
<b>Stock Routes and Reserves:</b> Precluded from hearing under Section 50 2(d)	27	-27
<b>CLAIMS AWAITING HEARING</b> including 13 repeat claims		<b>34</b>

<b>GRANTED ABORIGINAL LAND</b>	<b>SQ KM</b>	<b>% of NT</b>
NT Title	11,066	0.82
Commonwealth Title	245,744	18.25
Scheduled	270,697	20.10
	<b>527,507</b>	<b>39.18</b>

### **OUTSTANDING LAND CLAIMS**

In Progress	35,722	2.65
Awaiting hearing	65,586	4.87
Repeat claims	33,779	2.50
Stock routes and reserves	3,739	0.27
	<b>138,826</b>	<b>10.31</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>666,333</b>	<b>49.49</b>

<b>TOTAL AREA OF NT</b>	<b>1,346,200</b>	<b>100.00</b>
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*Note: Figures have been rounded to closest 0.01%*

\* Kanturrrpa/Kanttaji claim settled later in 1993

Source: N1 Dept. Lands, Housing & Local Government 1992-93 Annual Report



Aboriginal Health Worker.  
*Photo: Courtesy of Health and Community Services.*

# CHAPTER 5 EDUCATION

Like South Australia, the Northern Territory education structure consists of four basic stages. Entry into the education system begins with nearly all children enrolling in pre-school education when they turn four. At the age of five they enter a Transition Year prior to joining Year One. The majority of students then spend 7 years in primary school and 5 years in high school. However an increasing number of students are opting to extend their senior studies over three years instead of two to complete the requirement of the SACE (NT) Certificate. The fourth phase covers those who attend university or other tertiary institutions.

## Enrolments

Within Government pre-schools, enrolments increased to 3,023 students in 1993, an increase of 0.5 per cent from the previous year. The student-teacher ratio for all Government pre-schools in the Territory was 31 to 1, compared to 37 to 1 in 1992. Enrolments in non-government pre-schools in 1993 increased by 13 per cent over the previous year, with the student-teacher ratio rising from 36 to 40.

**TABLE 5.1 PRE-SCHOOL ENROLMENTS AND NUMBER OF TEACHERS  
BY CATEGORY OF PRE-SCHOOL (a)**

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Number	Government					
Students	2,896	2,807	2,767	2,854	3,008	3,023
Teachers	100	96	98	93	82	96
Non-Government						
Students	160	189	184	228	214	242
Teachers	5	4	7	6	6	6
All Pre-Schools						
Students	3,056	2,996	2,951	3,082	3,222	3,265
Teachers	105	100	104	99	88	102

(a) Does not include teacher aides and assistant teachers.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Education, Annual Reports - Appendix E.

There were 146 government schools operating in the Territory in 1993, comprising 103 primary, 11 secondary, 2 senior secondary, 22 mixed (primary and secondary), 7 special and one correspondence school with a total enrolment of 26,837. There were 26 non-government primary and secondary schools with a total enrolment of 7,035.

Compared to 1992, government school enrolments for 1993 increased by 2.6 per cent for primary schools while secondary school enrolments decreased by 5.9 per cent. Enrolments in non-government schools increased by 1.9 per cent in primary and by 0.6 per cent in secondary schools.

**TABLE 5.2 NUMBER OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS AND TEACHING STAFF:  
BY CATEGORY OF SCHOOL**

	<i>1988</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>
Government						
Schools	139	143	147	148	146	146
Students						
Primary	17,916	18,161	18,746	19,135	18,900	19,400
Secondary	8,233	7,696	7,510	8,026	7,903	7,437
Special	125	130	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,274</b>	<b>25,987</b>	<b>26,256</b>	<b>27,161</b>	<b>26,803</b>	<b>26,837</b>
Teaching staff (FTE) (b)						
Primary	1,183	1,215	1,248	1,251	1,261	1,304
Secondary	768	746	738	734	688	646
Special	31	36	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,981</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>1,949</b>	<b>1,950</b>
Non - government						
Schools	23	25	24	25	25	26
Students						
Primary	3,964	4,150	3,992	4,094	4,372	4,445
Secondary	1,499	1,875	2,079	2,190	2,396	2,590
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,463</b>	<b>6,025</b>	<b>6,071</b>	<b>6,284</b>	<b>6,768</b>	<b>7,035</b>
Teaching staff (FTE) (b)						
Primary	236	237	220	228	234	246
Secondary	118	155	171	185	192	217
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>463</b>
All schools						
Schools	162	168	171	173	171	172
Students						
Primary	21,180	22,311	22,738	23,229	23,272	23,845
Secondary	9,732	9,571	9,589	10,216	10,299	10,027
Special	125	130	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,737</b>	<b>32,012</b>	<b>32,327</b>	<b>33,445</b>	<b>33,571</b>	<b>33,872</b>
Teaching staff (FTE) (b)						
Primary	1,419	1,452	1,467	1,479	1,495	1,650
Secondary	885	902	909	919	880	863
Special	31	36	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>2,376</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>2,513</b>
<b>Non teaching staff (c)</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>761</b>

(a) Students and teaching staff in special schools have been allocated to either 'primary' or 'secondary' from 1990. (b) FTE is a measure of the total level of staff resources used (the full-time equivalent). Teaching staff include staff who spend the majority of time in contact with students including teachers, senior teachers and principals but excluding specialist support staff. (c) Includes specialist support staff, administrative and clerical staff and building operations and general maintenance staff.

Source: ABS Catalogue 4221.0

The introduction of the 1994 school year saw changes to the structure of secondary schooling in the Darwin region where Nightcliff High, Sanderson High and Dripstone High expanded to cater for senior secondary in addition to junior secondary students. The structure of Darwin High and Casuarina Secondary College did not change.

**TABLE 5.3 FULL-TIME ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS**

	Northern Territory					Australia				
	Number of students			% of total students		Number of students			% of total students	
	1991	1992	1993	1992	1993	1991	1992	1993	1992	1993
Government										
Primary	7,467	7,550	7,667	39.9	39.5	43,856	46,168	48,952	3.4	3.6
Secondary	1,937	1,968	1,773	24.9	24.0	20,205	20,682	20,832	2.3	2.4
Total	<b>9,404</b>	<b>9,518</b>	<b>9,440</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>64,061</b>	<b>66,850</b>	<b>69,784</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Non-government										
Primary	1,135	1,188	1,189	27.2	26.7	5,258	5,844	6,203	1.3	1.4
Secondary	633	751	951	31.3	36.7	2,930	3,125	3,475	0.8	0.8
Total	<b>1,768</b>	<b>1,939</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>8,188</b>	<b>8,969</b>	<b>9,678</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>
All schools										
Primary	8,602	8,738	8,856	37.0	37.5	49,114	52,012	55,155	2.9	3.0
Secondary	2,570	2,719	2,724	25.2	26.4	23,135	23,807	24,307	1.8	1.9
Total	<b>11,172</b>	<b>11,457</b>	<b>11,580</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>72,249</b>	<b>75,819</b>	<b>79,462</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue 4221.0

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students made up more than one third of all full-time enrolments in the Northern Territory in 1993. This compares to 2.6 per cent of full time enrolments Australia wide.

## Retention Rates

Apparent retention rates express the number of students in Year 12 as a proportion of the corresponding group enrolled in the first year of secondary education.

**TABLE 5.4 ENROLMENTS AND RETENTION RATES,  
GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Grade	Enrolments by Grade					
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
8	1,977	1,920	1,925	1,932	1,991	2,066
9	1,750	1,697	1,678	1,699	1,689	1,590
10	1,825	1,512	1,402	1,566	1,517	1,378
11	1,473	1,433	1,256	1,339	1,303	1,196
12	1,069	962	1,019	1,240	1,157	974
Total	<b>8,094</b>	<b>7,524</b>	<b>7,280</b>	<b>7,776</b>	<b>7,657</b>	<b>7,204</b>
Retention Rates by Grades						
9/8		0.86	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.80
10/8			0.71	0.82	0.79	0.71
11/8				0.68	0.68	0.62
12/8					0.59	0.51

Source: Department of Education

In 1993, for Territory Government Schools, the retention rate declined to 50.7 per cent, down from 58.5 per cent in the previous year. Factors directly affecting the calculation of the NT apparent retention rate include:

- (i) the shift in the census date from June to August resulting in a 14 month period, as well as, secondary enrolments usually declining between these dates. The impact of this factor should minimal by 1997;
- (ii) a significant increase in part time study with a decline in repeating and mature-age students. Part time student enrolments are not used in the calculation of apparent retention rate, thus the rate, unlike the decline in repeating and mature-age student enrolments, does not reflect the increase in part-time enrolments;
- (iii) an overall decline in the size of the 17 year old age group from that in 1989. The age progression rate decreased 11.2 per cent while the number of 17 year olds fell 12.7 per cent; and
- (iv) inter-sector transfers and interstate movements of students are not taken into account.

### **Batchelor College**

Batchelor College is a multi-purpose Institution of Aboriginal Tertiary Education specialising in the provision of nationally accredited courses of professional and para-professional education and training to Aboriginal people in a cross-cultural environment. Students principally come from some 140 remote and traditionally oriented communities.

From an enrolment of approximately 100 students in 1985 studying the sole program offered, numbers have increased to more than 820 students in 1993, studying over 19 different courses.

The college is presently structured into 3 teaching schools; the School of Education, the School of Community Studies and the School of Health Studies, supported by Academic and Student Services.

To meet the educational needs of the Aboriginal people of Central Australia, a campus of the College was established in Alice Springs in 1990. Annexes were opened at Nhulunbuy, Katherine, and Tennant Creek later in the same year. Around 45 per cent of enrolments in 1993 came from the Barkly and Central Australian regions.

During 1993, 826 students were enrolled for varying periods, equal to 570 full time students. Of this number, 472 were enrolled in Higher Education Courses while 354 were attending TAFE Courses. Students were predominantly mature-age and approximately 65 per cent were female, many with child-rearing responsibilities.

Batchelor College had an academic staff of 120 as well as 55 non-academic staff in 1993. Of these, approximately 26 per cent are Aboriginal.

## **Higher Education and TAFE**

There are five colleges of further education and one university in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory University (NTU) was formed when the University College of the Northern Territory and the Darwin Institute of Technology amalgamated on 1 January 1989.

Three major building projects at the Casuarina Campus of NTU were completed in 1992; four commenced construction; and design commenced on a further three, representing a total capital works expenditure of \$12.3 million in 1992. Further upgrading of facilities continued in 1993 and stage 1 of the new library and an auditorium were completed.

## **Higher Education Enrolments**

In 1993, the proportion of full-time enrolments in the Higher Education sector exceeded 50 per cent for the first time and external enrolments exceeded 10 per cent for the first time. In 1993 there were a total of 3,790 students enrolled in 3,943 courses (2,327 females and 1,616 males). Of these 1,809 were commencing and 2,134 were continuing course enrolments. Full-time enrolments for 1993 increased to 2,041 from 1,945 in 1992 while part-time enrolments decreased from 1,995 to 1,902 for the same period.

Over the past five years female enrolments have constituted approximately 60 per cent of all Higher Education enrolments at NTU and commencing enrolments have decreased as a proportion of total enrolments.

More than half of the overseas fee-paying enrolments have been in the Faculty of Business which is also the only faculty offering fee-paying courses to Australian students. In 1993, fee-paying enrolments constituted approximately 5 per cent of all Higher Education enrolments.

The proportion of Higher Education enrolments by students under 25 years of age has increased consistently from 36 per cent in 1989 to more than 40 per cent in 1993.

The number of course completions has increased annually over the past 5 years, more than doubling for all faculties which existed in both 1988 and 1993. Sixty-four per cent of all course completions since 1988 have been for female students. In 1993 the Faculty of Education and ITAFE had the highest proportions of female enrolments, 73 per cent and 69 per cent respectively. The Faculties of Law and Science had the lowest proportion of female enrolments, 47 per cent and 46 per cent respectively. Twenty-six per cent of course completions in 1992 were for postgraduate courses.

The proportion of Territorians (NT residents) enrolled in courses at NTU have increased consistently across all age groups since 1989. Approximately 6 per cent of all Northern Territory residents were enrolled in a course at the Northern Territory University in 1992.

## TAFE Enrolments

The Technical and Further Education (TAFE) sector grew in 1992 with student numbers increasing by 12.4 per cent to 3,881 and course enrolments increasing 12.5 per cent to 4,174, compared to 1991. The Annual Student Contact Hours (ASCH) also grew by 11.6 per cent over the previous year. Most of this growth is attributable to significant increases in pre-vocational courses which had a 58 per cent increase in ASCH over 1991. Almost 60 per cent of the total ASCH for 1992 was undertaken by male students. Over the last few years the proportion of males enrolled in courses has increased slightly. More than a quarter of all TAFE enrolments in 1992 were by persons between 20 and 24 years inclusive.

A further 4,540 students enrolled in recreation, leisure and personal enrichment courses (Stream 1000) in 1992, a 66 per cent increase on the previous year. This stream totalled 66,909 annual student contact hours. There were 775 staff members for TAFE (375 academic and 400 non-academic).

**TABLE 5.5 TERTIARY ENROLMENTS BY AGE AND SECTOR**

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Higher Education</i>				<i>TAFE (a)(b)</i>		
	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>
Under 20 years	349	443	490	521	857	779	831
20-24	663	867	1,050	1,061	877	940	1,098
25-29	383	485	540	567	504	577	621
30-34	399	484	502	479	427	448	527
35-39	423	480	518	464	386	389	429
40-44	345	419	425	403	285	300	348
45-49	183	205	255	296	144	171	179
50 and over	101	127	160	152	109	106	140
Unknown	0	0	0	0	15	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,846</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>3,940</b>	<b>3,943</b>	<b>3,604</b>	<b>3,710</b>	<b>4,174</b>

(a) Excludes Stream 1000 courses. (b) Figures for 1993 not yet available

Source: Northern Territory University Statistics Report 1989-1993.

**TABLE 5.6 TERTIARY STUDENTS BY AGE AND SECTOR**

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Higher Education</i>			<i>TAFE (b)</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>
15-19	342	421	458	827	750	782	1,169	1,171	1,240
20-24	641	834	997	823	875	1,012	1,464	1,709	2,009
25-29	373	469	518	462	518	575	835	987	1,093
30-34	392	460	483	407	413	496	799	873	979
35-39	420	459	501	370	357	389	790	816	890
40-44	341	402	413	266	283	322	607	685	735
45-49	182	200	252	132	159	171	314	359	423
50 and over	100	125	156	97	98	134	197	223	290
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>3,370</b>	<b>3,778</b>	<b>3,404</b>	<b>3,453</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>6,175</b>	<b>6,823</b>	<b>7,659</b>

(a) Includes students with unknown age. (b) Excludes Stream 1000 courses.

Source: Northern Territory University Statistics Report 1989-1993.

# CHAPTER 6 YOUNG PEOPLE

## Population characteristics

Young people (12 to 25 year-olds) numbered 41,758 or 24 per cent of the total people counted in the Northern Territory (175,891) on Census night, 6 August 1991.

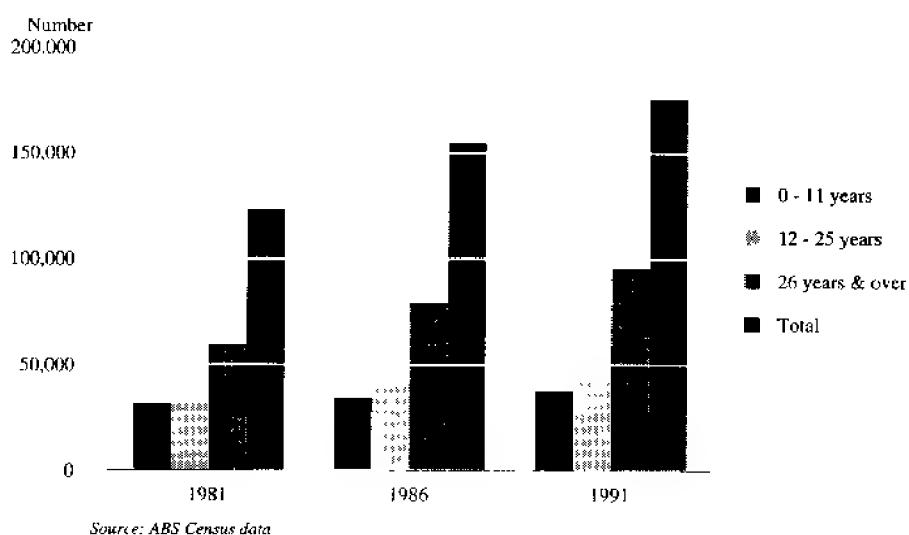
While the total population of the NT grew by 43 per cent from 123,323 in 1981 to 175,891 in 1991, the number of 12 to 25 year olds grew by only 29 per cent from 32,253 to 41,758. Most of this growth was in the first 5 years to 1986 when this group totalled 40,946, growing only a further 2 per cent in the next 5 years.

The number of young males counted in the Northern Territory (21,191), was only slightly greater than 12 to 25 year old females (20,567). In the total population, males also outnumbered females by 7,315.

Over two thirds of 12 to 25 year olds had been residents of the Northern Territory five years previously (30 June 1986) compared with 61 per cent of the total population.

The majority (74 per cent) of young people in the Northern Territory lived in the more densely populated or urbanised areas. However, in the rural and remote areas young people comprised a larger proportion of those populations - on average around 26 per cent.

GRAPH 6.1 POPULATION AGE GROUPS



Source: ABS Census data

## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander People

Young indigenous people made up 30 per cent (12,100) of the total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of 39,910. Around two thirds of this age group lived in rural and remote areas. Aboriginal languages were spoken at home by 61 per cent (8,266) of young indigenous people. Only 28 per cent (3,331) of 12 to 25 year olds were attending an educational institution, compared with 36 per cent of all young people. Fewer than 2 per cent held a qualification of any form.

## **Overseas Born**

Close to 17 per cent (7,038) of young people in the Northern Territory were born overseas compared to almost 22 per cent (38,480) of the total population. Of these young people, 62 per cent were from non-English speaking countries, compared with 43 per cent of the total population. The most common birthplace was Indonesia (6 per cent) followed by Papua New Guinea and the Philippines (5 per cent each) and Malaysia (4 per cent). Apart from English and Aboriginal languages, Greek was the most common language spoken at home by young people (6 per cent), followed by German (2.2 per cent), Cantonese (2.1 percent), Italian (1.9 per cent) and Filipino languages (1.7 per cent).

## **Employment and Income**

Young people made up one quarter of the 80,333 strong labour force and 23 per cent of the total employed (74,617), but 30 per cent of those worked part-time, a higher percentage than for the total workforce at 25 per cent. Young females were more likely to be working part-time than young males and most commonly worked in sales or other personal services (31 per cent ) or as clerks (25 per cent). Young males were most commonly employed as tradespeople (28 per cent) or labourers (24 per cent).

The unemployment rate among young people in the Northern Territory was significantly higher at 19 per cent (3,730) than for the total population (12 per cent or 9,550). This resulted in an over representation of young people in this category with 15 to 25 year olds making up 39 per cent of the Northern Territory's unemployed but only 26 per cent of its total population.

Young people in the Northern Territory earned lower incomes on average than the total population. While 60 per cent of 15 to 17 year-olds earned less than \$8,000 per year, this figure decreased for older age groups to fewer than 24 per cent for 25 year-olds, as young people made the transition from study and part-time work to full-time employment. Similarly, fewer than 1 per cent of 15 to 17 year-olds earned more than \$25,000 but this proportion increased to over 18 per cent of 25 year olds.

On average, young females earned less than young males. Over 58 per cent (9,700) earned less than \$16,000 compared with 51 per cent of young males (8,700). In the higher income brackets, nearly four times as many young males (700 or 4 per cent) earned over \$35,000 compared with only 200 or 1 per cent of young females.

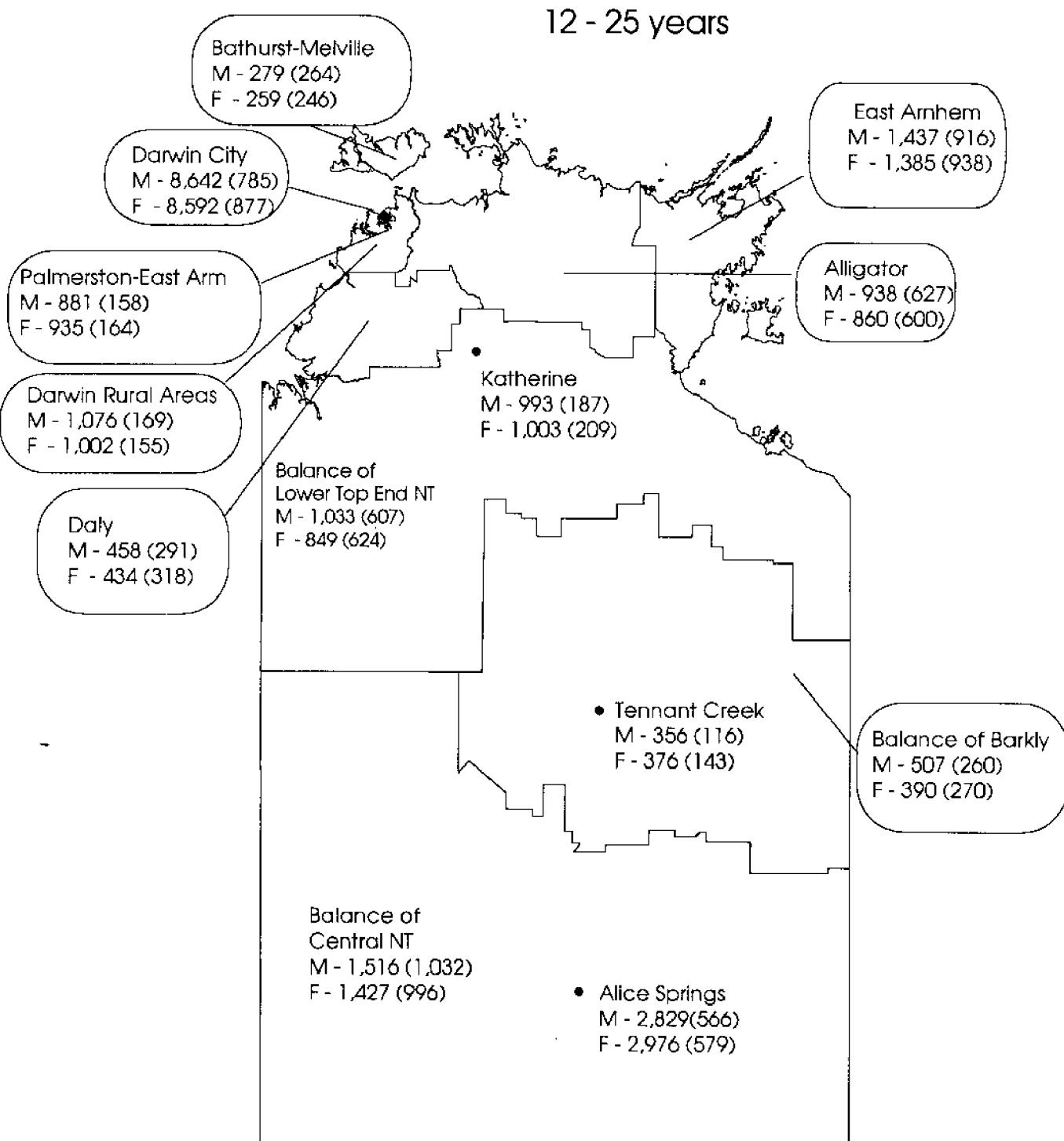
## **Living Arrangements**

Most 15 to 25 year olds in the Northern Territory (71 per cent) reported 'never married' as their marital status. However, young women were much more likely to be married or in a defacto relationship (34 per cent) than young men (20 per cent ). Young females were more likely than males to live apart from their parents, as partners in couples, or as parents themselves. Higher proportions of young males lived in non-private dwellings such as hostels, guest houses, goal, and defence establishments.

# YOUNG PEOPLE IN NORTHERN TERRITORY

## by Statistical Subdivision - 1991 Census

12 - 25 years

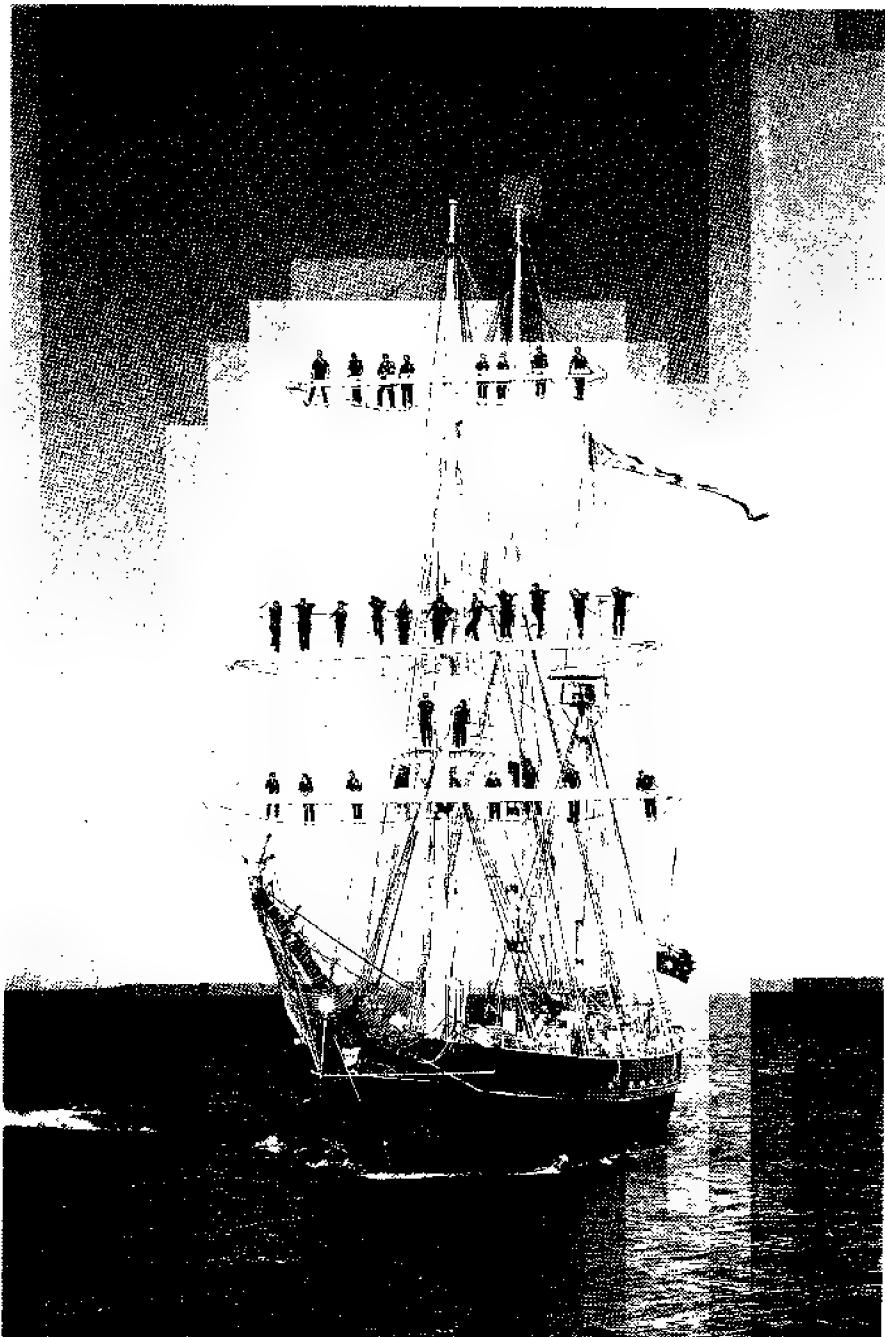


M - Male population 12-25 years

F - Female population 12-25 years

( ) - Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander population only

*Additional information on young people can be found in the ABS publication 'The Northern Territory's Young People' Catalogue 4123.7*



The tall ship, '*Leeuwin*', sails into Darwin harbour crewed by 36 unemployed youths from the NT, after a 12 day trip from Broome, in Western Australia. Aged 16 to 19, the crew came from Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Palmerston and Nhulunbuy. Funded by DEET and the NT Education Department, under the auspices of the NT Youth Services forum, the adventure sail training project aims to develop self-esteem, discipline and team work, with full-time employment the ultimate aim.

*Photo: Courtesy of DEET.*

# CHAPTER 7      LAW AND ORDER

## Police

The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services were amalgamated into a tripartite organisation in 1983.

At 30 June 1993 the police establishment was 682, spread throughout the Territory at 52 different stations and locations. During the year the Service continued to support and develop its objective of working in partnership with the community and encouraging social responsibility.

Community policing programs in the form of night-patrol and wardens schemes have now been established to varying degrees in 22 communities throughout the NT.

The number of Neighbourhood Watch groups continued to grow. More than 270 meetings were held during the year. School based constables presented the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program to nearly 20,000 young people as part of their work with students. Police Aides have also been trained to assist in the DARE program. Police sponsored activities such as Blue Light Discos continued while Junior Police Rangers were involved in 69 major activities.

## Crime and Convictions

In 1992-93 the Darwin City area was subject to an increase of 16.8 per cent in unlawful entry and stealing offences as compared to the previous year.

A total of 937 vehicles were stolen and 810 recovered Territory wide during the 1992-93 financial year.

**TABLE 7.1 SUMMARY OF SELECTED CRIMES, 1992-93**

Offence	Reported <i>All ages</i>	Cleared <i>All ages</i>	Number of Cleared Offences by Age of Offender-			
			16 years & under	17 years to 24 years	25 years & over	Total
Murder	15	15	2	6	8	16
Attempted Murder	15	15	-	8	13	21
Manslaughter	3	3	1	2	1	4
Assault - Non Sexual	1,872	1,383	83	557	855	1,495
Assault - Sexual (a)	252	176	23	33	116	172
Robbery	64	24	11	18	5	34
Unlawful Entry	1,201	239	143	133	83	359
Unlawful Entry/Stealing	3,273	668	527	511	237	1,275
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	1,088	391	147	357	146	650
Criminal Deception	389	249	3	71	166	240
Stealing	5,118	1,021	335	410	422	1,167
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,290</b>	<b>4,184</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>2,052</b>	<b>5,433</b>

*Source:* Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services Annual Reports and NT Police Service tabulations

## **Juvenile Crime**

There were a total of 1,275 cleared offences committed by juvenile offenders in 1992-93. The majority of these offences were committed by the 14 to 16 year old age group (899), followed by the 12 and 13 year olds (262) and then the 10 and 11 year olds (114). Only 13.8 per cent were female offenders. The most common offence was Unlawful Entry/Stealing which was 44 per cent (561) of the total offences committed by juveniles. (See Table 7.1)

Casuarina Police Office responded to the high incidence of juvenile crime with 34 suburban operations in an effort to reduce the problem. One hundred and fifty-five juvenile offenders were apprehended by both general duties members and the specially formed CIB Juvenile Squad. A Juvenile Task Force has also been formed in Alice Springs to combat the rising incidence of unlawful entry crimes reported which rose from 622 in 1991-92 to 996 in 1992-93.

There are two detention centres for juveniles in the Northern Territory, the Don Dale Centre and the Wilderness Work Camp. The Don Dale Centre has the capacity to hold 30 inmates but had a daily average of 13 detainees in 1992-93, while the Wilderness Camp, which can hold 15 detainees had a daily average of 8 for the same period.

As part of a scheme to involve Aboriginal people in resolving matters of justice in their communities Aboriginal Community Corrections Officers are formally employed in seven Territory Aboriginal communities. Several other communities have appointed voluntary corrections officers to assist in a similar capacity.

## **Protective Custodies**

Section 128 of the NT Police Administration Act has empowered police to take persons who are intoxicated in public into protective custody. The overall incidence of protective custody apprehensions declined in 1992-93. More than three-quarters of this number were in the Southern Command.

**TABLE 7.2 PROTECTIVE CUSTODY APPREHENSIONS,  
1988-89 TO 1992-93**

		Apprehensions				
		1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Aboriginal	M	18,144	20,990	21,776	21,365	17,507
	F	5,144	6,540	6,667	6,540	5,959
Non- Aboriginal	M	2,474	2,399	2,504	2,329	2,241
	F	141	104	142	87	109
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,903</b>	<b>30,033</b>	<b>31,089</b>	<b>30,321</b>	<b>25,816</b>

Note: It is important to remember that the number of apprehensions does not represent the actual number of people apprehended. A person may be apprehended a number of times during any given year.

*Source:* Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services Annual Reports

TABLE 7.3 CRIME AND JUSTICE

	1991-92	1992-93
	<i>Persons convicted at courts by class of defence (a) (d)</i>	
Against the person (b)	1,092	810
<i>Murder/manslaughter</i>	9	4
<i>Aggravated assault</i>	432	342
<i>Of a sexual nature</i>	95	40
In a restricted area	1,077	525
Traffic	8,277	5,607
<i>Exceed speed limit</i>	365	205
<i>Exceed blood alcohol limit</i>	2,277	1,640
<i>Drive unlicensed</i>	1,410	893
<i>Unregistered vehicle</i>	727	510
<i>Drive without due care</i>	356	296
Firearms	299	252
Robbery, stealing and fraud	3,302	2,353
<i>Stealing (c)</i>	2,044	1,507
<i>Unlawful use of a motor vehicle</i>	699	421
Against property	2,404	1,917
Against good order/morals	2,443	1,720
<i>Drugs</i>	767	633
<b>Total convictions</b>	<b>18,894</b>	<b>13,184</b>

(a) Convicted includes committals to the Supreme Court. (b) Includes some offences of a sexual nature.

(c) Not including robbery. (d) Includes some offences reported outside the period.

Source: Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services Annual Reports and NT Police Service

## Prisons

The Northern Territory has two adult goal facilities, one in Alice Springs and one in Darwin and a Prison Farm at Gunn Point.

Alice Springs goal has a capacity of 130 (including the 20 prisoners who work and live in the Mobile Work Camps). During the past year the daily average number of prisoners held was 118.

An analysis of goal figures for 1992 indicated that the majority of prisoners were aboriginal and of those, half were only incarceration for short periods (less than 6 months), for relative less serious offences such as drink driving and other alcohol related offences. Most of the prisoners came from the Western Desert region. Programs have been initiated for the treatment of alcohol problems while in goal with the co-operation and support of the Aboriginal community.

With the opening in 1994 of a new facility, 20 kilometres outside of the township, initiatives to develop prison industries and programs suited to the health and training needs of the inmates will be promoted.

Gunn Point Prison Farm is a males only minimum security institution situated 76 kilometres by road from Darwin. It has a capacity of 100 inmates with the yearly daily average of 97 for 1992-93. Produce from this farm is used throughout the Territory's prison system.

Darwin Prison is a multiclassification facility made up of separate sections for remandees, women, juveniles, minimum and maximum security inmates. The daily average number of prisoners held for 1992-93 in Darwin Goal was 199.

The NT Department of Correctional Services reported in its 1992-93 Annual Report that the major offence groups were:

- Exceed 0.08% Blood Alcohol Concentration - 243 (16.7 per cent);
- Assaults - 175 (12.0 per cent);
- Enter Building with Intent - 117 (8.0 per cent);
- Breach and Justice Procedures - 197 (13.6 per cent); and
- Drive Whilst Disqualified - 123 (8.5 per cent ).

The report also noted that:

- 68 per cent or 993 of 1,452 of sentenced prisoners spent less than 12 months in prison;
- 75 per cent of sentenced prisoners held in 1992 were Aboriginal; and
- the daily average number of prisoners for the Northern Territory for 1992-93 was 434, a decrease of 6 per cent from 1991-92 (460).

A new police complex comprising of a station, cell block and visiting Officer's quarters at Oenpelli costing \$700,000 was completed late in 1993. A new station and cell block at Daly River has been approved for the 1993-94 Capital Works Program.

#### **Other Services**

Other elements of the Service are the Operational Support Unit, the Fisheries and Water Police, the Gold Squad, the Airwing, the Fire Service and Emergency Services.

Airwing conducted 292 hours flying time in the surveillance of northern waters. As a result, eight vessels were apprehended for offences against the *Fisheries Act*.

#### **Fire Service**

The Northern Territory Fire Service maintained 9 permanently manned fire stations throughout the Territory, while volunteer fire brigades serviced a further 11 communities. During the year 131 permanent, 60 auxiliary and approximately 260 volunteer fire fighters at 22 locations throughout NT attended a total of 4,312 calls to various types of incidents. During 1992-93 four people died in house fires in Darwin and Katherine.

As part of the Fire Service, 156 volunteers at 19 small communities became involved in firefighting training and the facilities at many small communities have been upgraded.

The Conservation Commission reported in its Annual Report for 1993 that 211 wildfires were recorded for 1992-93, with outbreaks occurring in 7 of the 9 Fire Control Regions. The Bushfires Council spent over \$69,000 on wildfire control in 1992-93. 56 Stations and 4 Aboriginal communities participated in the annual Aerial Controlled Burning Program.

#### **Emergency Service**

To maximise community awareness and participation in matters of counter disasters and emergency management, NT Emergency Services visited 36 communities and held 105 planning committee meetings to co-ordinate Territory wide preparedness for disasters.

# CHAPTER 8 THE LABOUR MARKET

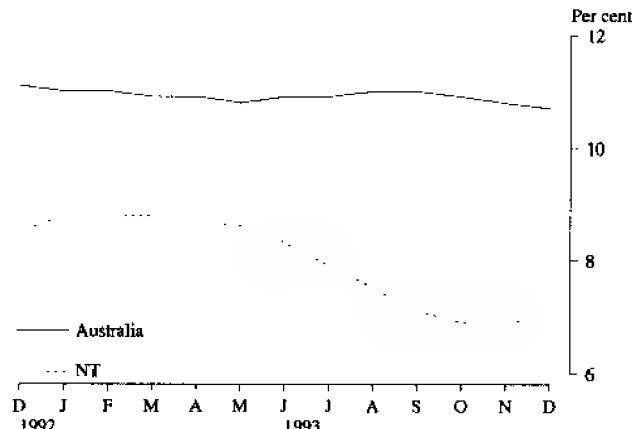
## Labour Force

In December 1993 there were an estimated 81,000 persons (45,900 males and 35,100 females) in the Northern Territory labour force. These are persons who were either employed or who were actively seeking and available to commence employment. Of these 75,300 (42,800 males and 32,500 females) were employed. The Territory participation rate (the percentage of persons in the labour force compared with the total working age civilian population) was 67.6 per cent compared to the participation rate for Australia of 63.7 per cent. The participation rates for NT males and females were 74.3 per cent and 60.4 per cent respectively, compared to corresponding rates of 74.6 per cent and 53.1 per cent for Australia.

In December 1993, 5,700 persons (3,100 males and 2,600 females) were recorded as being unemployed (not employed and actively seeking and available to commence employment). In December 1993 the unemployment rate (number unemployed as a percentage of the labour force) for the NT was 7.1 per cent while for Australia it was 10.7 per cent.

The above figures are original data adjusted using 1991 population data as the benchmark. Table 8.1 and Graph 8.1 show trend estimates for NT.

**GRAPH 8.1 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, TREND  
NORTHERN TERRITORY AND AUSTRALIA**



Source: ABS Catalogue 6202.0

**TABLE 8.1 LABOUR FORCE, NORTHERN TERRITORY - TREND SERIES  
DECEMBER 1992 - DECEMBER 1993**

	1992												1993														
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Employed ('000)	75.8	75.2	74.8	74.6	74.7	75.2	75.8	76.7	77.4	77.7	77.4	76.4	75.1	82.9	82.4	82.1	81.8	81.8	82.2	82.7	83.3	83.6	83.6	83.1	82.0	80.7	
Unemployed ('000)	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.9	6.6	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.6	36.3	36.7	36.9	37.1	37.2	36.9	36.5	36.0	35.8	35.9	36.6	37.8	39.2	
Unemployment rate (%)	8.5	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.3	7.9	7.5	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.0	Participation rate (%)	69.6	69.3	69.0	68.9	68.8	69.0	69.4	69.8	70.1	70.0	69.5	68.5	67.3

Estimates of regional unemployment for the NT are published quarterly by the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) in *Small Area Labour Markets - Australia*. These estimates are derived by DEET from information supplied by the ABS and the Department of Social Security. For June quarter 1993 DEET estimated that 5,813 people were unemployed in the Territory and that 37.6 per cent of these unemployed people were in Darwin, 5.6 per cent were in Palmerston, 3.0 per cent were in Katherine, 4.1 per cent were in Tennant Creek, 6.3 per cent were in Alice Springs and 43.5 per cent in other areas of the NT.

DEET estimated that NT regional unemployment rates for the same period were 6.1 per cent for Darwin, 9.8 per cent for Palmerston, 4.1 per cent for Katherine, 16.1 per cent for Tennant Creek, 3.0 per cent for Alice Springs and 12.0 per cent for other areas in the NT.

<b>Sector</b>	The Northern Territory has the largest public sector as a proportion of employed wage and salary earners of all the States and Territories excepting the ACT. In December 1993, 38.4 per cent of all employed wage and salary earners in the Territory were employed in the public sector compared to the national figure of 28.2 per cent. The State/Territory level of the public sector employed 28.5 per cent of all NT wage and salary earners while the Commonwealth employed 7.7 per cent and local government employed 2.2 per cent.						
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**TABLE 8.2 PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY SECTOR  
NORTHERN TERRITORY AND AUSTRALIA**

<i>Sector</i>	<i>1992</i>			<i>1993</i>			
	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Sep</i>	
<b>Northern Territory</b>							
Private	61.1	64.2	64.2	63.2	64.3	63.0	61.6
Public	38.9	35.8	35.8	36.6	35.7	37.0	38.4
Commonwealth	7.8	6.9	6.8	8.3	6.7	6.7	7.7
Territory	29.4	26.8	26.6	26.2	27.1	28.1	28.5
Local	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.2
<b>Australia</b>							
Private	71.1	71.1	71.3	70.7	71.1	71.2	71.8
Public	28.9	28.9	28.7	29.3	28.9	28.8	28.2
Commonwealth	6.8	6.7	6.6	7.6	6.6	6.4	6.4
State/Territory	19.4	19.5	19.4	18.9	19.5	19.6	19.1
Local	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: ABS Catalogue 6248.0

**Industry** The community services industry which includes health, education, museum and library services as well as welfare and other community services employs the highest proportion of the Territory's wage and salary earners. In September 1993, 29.5 per cent of all wage and salary earners were employed in this industry (Table 8.3). Compared to the national figures a greater proportion of our wage and salary earners are employed in public administration and defence, mining, construction and community services while a much lower proportion of Territory wage and salary earners are employed in the manufacturing and wholesale industries.

**TABLE 8.3 EMPLOYED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, BY INDUSTRY**

<i>Industry</i>	<i>June 1993</i>		<i>September 1993</i>	
	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>Aust</i>
Per cent of wage and salary earners employed by industry				
Mining	3.9	1.2	4.4	1.1
Manufacturing	3.7	15.4	3.6	15.4
Electricity, gas and water	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Construction	9.7	4.5	8.0	4.4
Wholesale trade	2.6	7.0	3.1	7.0
Retail trade	12.7	13.4	14.4	13.1
Transport and storage	3.2	4.3	3.1	4.6
Communication	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8
Finance, property and business services	9.8	13.1	11.1	12.9
Public administration and defence (a)	10.5	5.8	10.7	5.7
Community services	27.8	24.3	29.5	24.2
Recreation, personal and other services (b)	12.8	7.5	8.7	7.9
<b>Total all industries (c)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
per cent of total gross earnings by industry				
Mining	6.3	2.3	7.4	2.2
Manufacturing	3.0	16.8	3.2	17.2
Electricity, gas and water	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2
Construction	8.6	5.0	8.7	5.0
Wholesale trade	2.7	7.4	3.0	7.4
Retail trade	8.9	8.6	9.8	8.1
Transport and storage	3.4	5.6	3.8	5.9
Communication	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.5
Finance, property and business services	8.4	14.4	8.8	14.5
Public administration and defence (a)	13.4	6.1	13.4	6.5
Community services	31.3	24.2	30.7	23.5
Recreation, personal and other services (b)	9.1	4.7	6.6	4.9
<b>Total all industries (c)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Excludes members of permanent defence forces and employees of overseas embassies, consulates etc. (b) Excludes private households employing staff. (c) Includes employees of government agencies classified to Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting

Source: ABS Catalogue 6248.0

## Average Weekly Earnings

The average weekly earnings of Northern Territory wage and salary earners continues to be above the national average. In November 1993 the average weekly full-time adult ordinary time earnings was \$634.30 while for all Australians it was \$604.20. Territory wage and salary earners enjoy the highest average weekly ordinary time earnings of all the states and territories except the ACT.

For the 12 months to November 1993 average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time adults in the NT increased by 0.5 per cent while nationally there was an increase of 3.0 per cent.

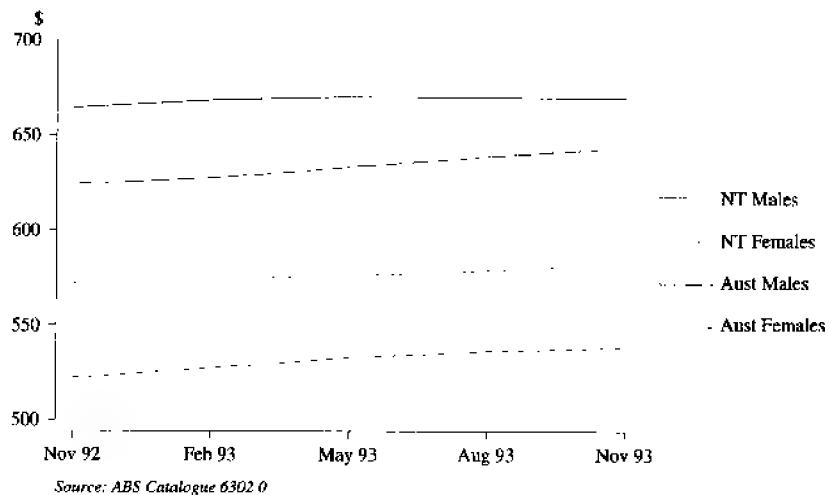
The average total weekly earnings for full-time adult males in NT was \$730.40 in November 1993 compared with \$595.50 for females. Nationally the corresponding figures were \$692.80 for males and \$550.80 for females.

**TABLE 8.4 AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES, NT**

Reference period - pay period ending on or before	Males		Females		Persons			
	Full-time adults		All males	Full-time adults		All females	Full-time adults	All employees
	Ordinary time earnings	Total earnings	Total earnings	Ordinary time earnings	Total earnings	Total earnings	Ordinary time earnings	Total earnings
- dollars -								
<i>1992 -</i>								
21 August	648.70	724.50	652.00	571.00	586.10	466.80	618.90	671.50
20 November	672.40	729.40	643.40	569.20	582.90	441.80	630.90	670.40
<i>1993 -</i>								
19 February	669.70	729.20	650.20	575.50	589.70	439.10	632.00	673.40
21 May	669.20	733.40	646.00	573.60	589.70	449.80	631.30	676.40
20 August	670.70	739.80	666.10	581.40	594.40	448.10	635.10	681.90
19 November	664.70	730.40	663.90	582.20	595.50	437.20	634.30	680.60
<i>Standard errors -</i>								
<i>1993 - November</i>								
Level	11.80	17.70	17.60	4.60	4.80	17.60	8.10	12.60
Change (quarterly)	6.60	7.80	8.50	5.00	4.70	12.10	4.70	5.00
- per cent -								
<i>Quarterly change to -</i>								
<i>1993 - August</i>	0.2	0.9	3.1	1.4	0.8	-0.4	0.6	0.8
<i>November</i>	-0.9	-1.3	-0.3	0.1	0.2	-2.4	-0.1	-0.2
<i>Annual change to -</i>								
<i>1993</i>								
August	3.4	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.4	-4.0	2.6	1.5
November	-1.1	0.1	3.2	2.3	2.2	-1.0	0.5	1.5

Source: ABS Catalogue 6302.0

**GRAPH 8.2 AVERAGE WEEKLY FULL-TIME ORDINARY EARNINGS TREND, NORTHERN TERRITORY AND AUSTRALIA**

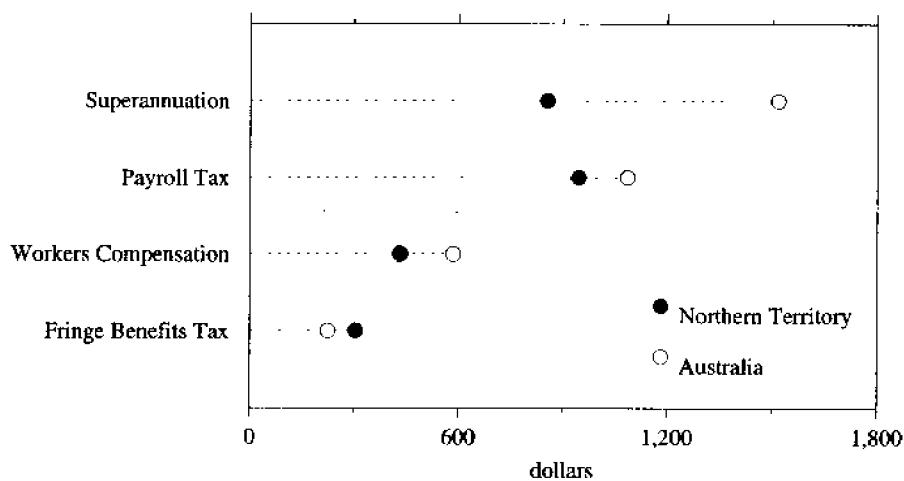


## Labour Costs

The latest published information on labour costs comes from the ABS Survey of Major Labour Costs conducted in 1991-92. These figures continue to show that the costs to employers of employing labour is dominated by employee earnings. Contributions to labour costs in the Territory for 1991-92 were payments for time worked (75.1 per cent), other earnings (eg leave, bonuses) (16.4 per cent), superannuation (2.8 per cent), payroll tax (3.1 per cent), workers' compensation (1.4 per cent), and fringe benefits tax (1.0 per cent).

For the Northern Territory public sector, labour costs excluding earnings made up 10.2 per cent of all major labour costs while for the private sector these costs amounted to 7.1 per cent.

**GRAPH 8.3 MAJOR LABOUR COSTS: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1991-92  
Average Costs Per Employee**



**Trade Unions** Since 1988 there has been a 52.1 per cent decline in the number of separate trade unions operating in the NT. In 1993 there were 35 separate trade unions compared to 73 in 1988. The number of union members has decreased by 2,000 (10.4 per cent) over the same period to 17,300. In 1988, 34 per cent of NT wage and salary earners were members of trade union organisations, whereas by 1993 this figure had decreased to 29 per cent.

Union membership in the NT is low in comparison with the figures for all Australia with 51 per cent of Australian wage and salary earners holding trade union memberships in 1993. Between 1988 and 1993 female union membership as a proportion of NT female wage and salary earners has remained constant at 30 per cent however male membership dropped from 38 per cent to 29 per cent.

**TABLE 8.5 TRADE UNIONS (a)**

	<i>Northern Territory</i>						<i>Australia</i>
	<i>1988</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1993</i>
Number of separate unions	73	71	57	55	46	35	188
Number of members							
				'000			
Males	11.7	11.6	10.6	11.7	9.9	9.2	1,812.6
Females	7.6	7.7	7.9	8.8	7.9	8.1	1,187.5
Persons	19.3	19.3	18.4	20.5	17.8	17.3	3,000.1
Members as a proportion of total employees							
				per cent			
Males	38	34	28	28	31	29	56
Females	30	28	26	31	34	30	44
Persons	34	31	27	29	32	29	51

(a) As at 30 June

Source: ABS Catalogue 6323.0

## Industrial Disputes

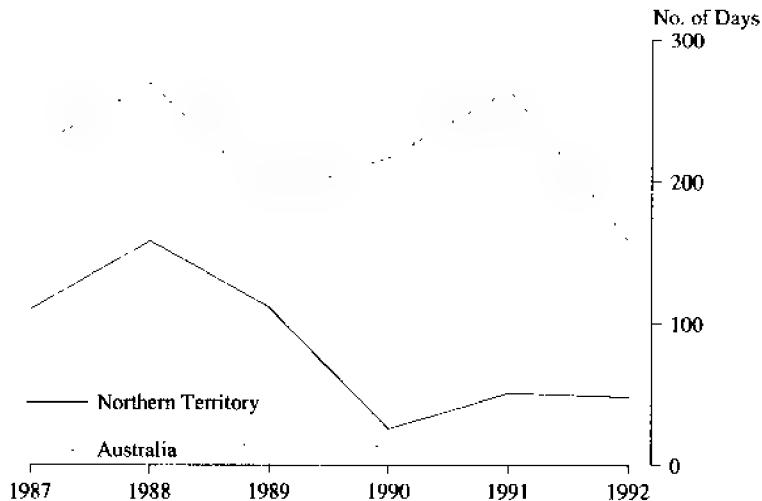
The Territory experienced 20 industrial disputes commencing during 1992 involving 2,700 employees and resulting in the loss of 2,700 working days during the year. Of the 2,700 days lost through industrial disputes 1,900 days were lost through 15 disputes over managerial policy, 700 days were lost through disputes over wages while 100 days were lost through trade unionism. There were fewer disputes in the NT than any other state or territory except the ACT. The NT lost 48 days per thousand employees due to industrial disputes compared to 20 days per thousand employees for ACT and 158 days lost per thousand employees for Australia.

**TABLE 8.6 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES**

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Number of disputes in progress	34	40	19	13	18	20
Workers directly involved ('000)	7.4	7.3	2.1	1.0	2.3	2.7
Working days lost ('000)	6.5	8.9	6.9	1.7	3.3	2.7

*Source:* ABS Catalogue 6322.0

**GRAPH 8.4 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS  
NORTHERN TERRITORY AND AUSTRALIA  
Working Days Lost Per Thousand Employees**



*Source:* ABS Catalogue 6322.0

## **Employment Injuries**

In 1992-93 there were 3,848 incidents involving claims under the Work Health Act in the Territory. The employment injury incident rate for the year was 69.1 per 1,000 wage and salary earners, down from 1991-92 when the rate was 71.0 per 1,000 wage and salary earners.

As has been the case for the last five years, the highest incidence rates occurred in the manufacturing, mining, and transport and storage industries. The manufacturing industry recorded the highest incidence rate of 167.4 claims per thousand wage and salary earners, while the mining industry recorded 166.1 claims per thousand wage and salary earners and the transport & storage industry recorded 138.4 claims per thousand wage and salary earners.

The greatest number of claims were recorded in community services with 845 or 22.0 per cent of all claims lodged during 1992-93.

**TABLE 8.7 WORK INJURY INCIDENCE RATES BY INDUSTRY, 1992-93**

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Claims</i>	<i>% of all claims</i>	<i>Incidence rate (a)</i>	<i>Claims cost (\$)'000</i>
Agriculture	264	6.9	n.a.	1,343
Communications	1	-	1.0	38
Community services	845	22.0	55.2	5,319
Construction	314	8.2	66.8	2,349
Electricity, gas & water	97	2.5	97.0	544
Finance, property & business	193	5.0	35.7	910
Manufacturing	318	8.3	167.4	1,177
Mining	299	7.8	166.1	3,146
Public administration	332	8.6	51.9	1,938
Recreational & personal services	381	9.9	52.9	1,584
Transport & storage	263	6.8	138.4	1,249
Wholesale & retail trade	541	14.0	59.5	1,793
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,848</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>21,389</b>

(a) Claims per one thousand wage and salary earners by industry.

*Source:* Work Health Authority, Statistical Supplement 1992-93

## Injury Claims

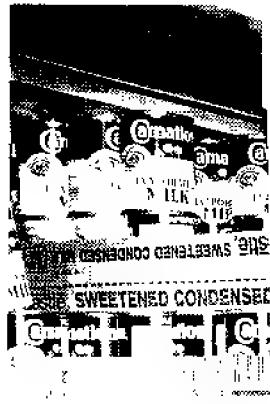
Of the employment injury claims lodged during 1992-93, 52.8 per cent related to incidents involving labourers or tradespersons. Labourers submitted 29.5 per cent of all claims while tradespersons submitted 23.2 per cent of claims. The most common employment injury reported was sprains and strains. These comprised 32.0 per cent of all claims while lacerations/open wounds were the next most common reported employment injury representing 17.8 per cent of all claims. A high proportion of the claims lodged by workers in community services related to sprain and strain injuries (36.6 per cent) while diseases comprised a further 25.1 per cent of claims for injuries to employees in this industry. (Source: Work Health Authority, Statistical Supplement 1992-93.)

**TABLE 8.8 WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS: NATURE OF INJURY 1992-93**

Industry	All Injuries	Fractures/ Dislocation	Sprains/ Strains	Foreign body in eye	Amput-ation	Lacerations /Open wounds	Super-ficial Injuries	Contusions /Bruising	Burns/ Scalds	Other Injuries	Diseases	Internal injuries
Agriculture	264	48	48	6	2	46	3	46	9	13	35	8
Communication	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community services	845	51	309	10	1	80	33	93	19	32	212	5
Construction	314	21	87	25	3	79	3	42	11	11	30	2
Electricity, gas & water	97	3	38	6	1	15	3	11	3	4	13	0
Finance, property & business services	193	15	58	12	2	27	4	26	8	9	32	0
Manufacturing	318	14	83	36	4	85	4	36	10	9	37	0
Mining	299	34	108	18	2	35	1	36	17	8	40	0
Public administration	332	12	127	12	1	41	10	30	8	20	67	4
Recreational & personal services	381	27	137	5	0	85	2	45	19	12	42	7
Transport & storage	263	23	92	9	1	45	6	39	8	21	18	1
Wholesale & retail trade	541	31	144	45	4	146	10	79	27	14	37	4
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>3,848</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Occupation</b>												
Clerical	241	10	90	0	0	26	3	33	1	11	67	0
Labourers & related workers	1,137	99	352	51	7	233	21	161	30	41	130	12
Managers & administrators		161	19	46	7	14	1	23	6	6	33	5
Para-professionals	510	35	178	9	1	52	21	49	13	33	115	4
Plant & machine operators	385	38	155	13	1	51	7	50	18	18	30	4
Professionals	167	9	66	3	1	15	6	12	1	9	44	1
Salespersons	353	22	136	2	2	56	5	57	11	9	50	3
Tradespersons	894	47	208	100	8	237	15	98	59	26	94	2
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>3,848</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>31</b>

(a) Includes 31 claims for Internal Injuries

Source: Work Health Authority, Statistical Supplement 1992-93



Shop assistant Yirrakala Community Store.

*Photo: Courtesy of DEET.*

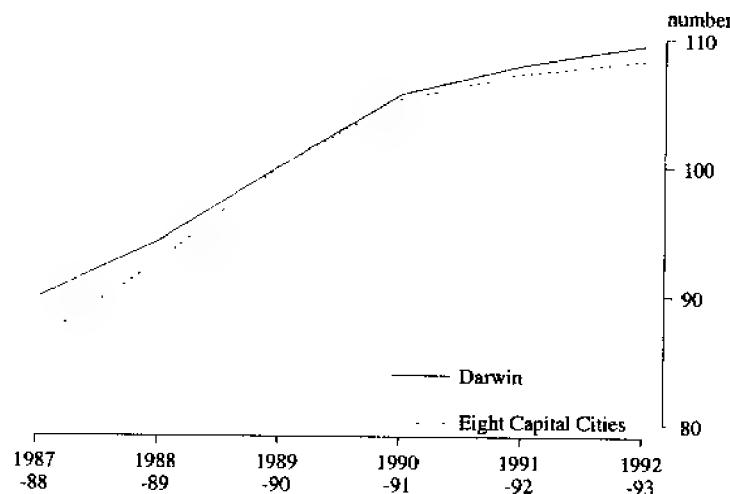
# CHAPTER 9 PRICES

## Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a quarterly measure of the change in the price of a *basket* of selected goods and services representative of the expenditure of metropolitan wage and salary earner households. This *basket* covers a wide range of goods and services in eight index groups: food; clothing; housing; household equipment and operation; transportation; tobacco and alcohol; health and personal care; and recreation and education. During the year ending December quarter 1993, the CPI for Darwin increased by 2.3 per cent while the weighted average of the eight Australian capital cities increased by 1.9 per cent. There was a quarterly increase of 1.0 per cent for Darwin between September and December quarters 1993 while the weighted average for the eight capital cities increased by 0.2 per cent over this period.

Price changes between 1991-92 and 1992-93 financial years for Darwin reflected those of the eight capital cities for the following groups: tobacco and alcohol; transportation; health and personal care; and clothing (graph 9.2). The food index for Darwin increased by 2.6 per cent compared to 1.6 per cent for the eight capitals. The housing index for Darwin decreased by 2.4 per cent compared to 4.4 per cent for the eight capitals. The largest increase was recorded in the tobacco and alcohol index for both Darwin (8.1 per cent) and the eight capitals (8.2 per cent).

GRAPH 9.1 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:  
FINANCIAL YEAR INDEX



Source: ABS Catalogue 6401.0

**TABLE 9.1 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: ALL GROUPS PERCENTAGE CHANGES**

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Weighted average of eight capital cities
									Change from previous year
1989-90	8.1	8.3	7.5	7.2	8.3	7.1	6.2	7.4	8.0
1990-91	4.9	5.8	4.9	6.2	5.1	4.9	5.7	5.1	5.3
1991-92	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.5	0.8	2.1	2.2	2.6	1.9
1992-93	0.9	0.7	1.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.0
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year									
<i>1991-92</i>									
September	2.8	4.0	3.2	4.0	1.9	3.6	3.3	3.8	3.2
December	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	-0.1	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.5
March	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
June	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
<i>1992-93</i>									
September	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
December	0.3	-0.2	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.3
March	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.2
June	1.8	1.8	2.5	2.7	1.1	2.2	1.5	2.2	1.9
<i>1993-94</i>									
September	1.7	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.3	3.2	1.6	2.2	2.2
December	1.3	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.3	3.3	2.3	2.1	1.9
Change from previous quarter									
<i>1991-92</i>									
September	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.3	1.3	0.6
December	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.8	0.9
March	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
June	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.4	0.1	-0.3	-0.3
<i>1992-93</i>									
September	0.4	-0.3	-0.1	0.6	-0.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.1
December	0.5	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5
March	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.9
June	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4
<i>1993-94</i>									
September	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
December	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.2

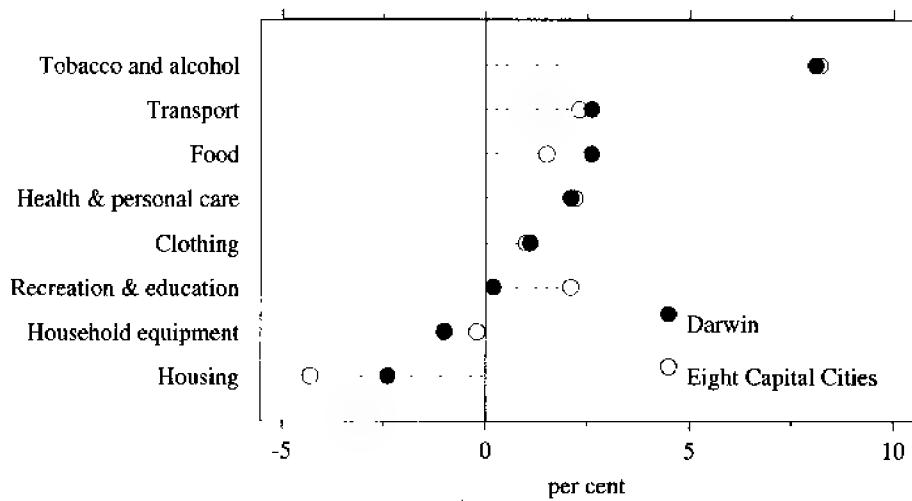
Source: ABS Catalogue 6401.0

**TABLE 9.2 COMPONENTS OF PRICE CHANGES, DARWIN**

Financial Years	Food	Housing	Clothing	Household equipment & operation	Transportation	Tobacco & alcohol	Health & personal care	Recreation & education	All groups
- per cent change from previous financial years -									
1988-89	7.7	3.9	4.9	4.0	3.8	3.8	8.8	4.4	4.9
1989-90	4.8	11.2	3.2	4.0	4.8	5.7	12.4	6.7	6.2
1990-91	4.7	4.8	5.0	5.2	6.3	8.7	10.1	3.2	5.7
1991-92	1.5	1.1	0.6	1.1	1.6	4.3	10.6	1.2	2.2
1992-93	2.6	-2.4	1.1	-1.0	2.6	8.1	2.1	0.2	1.4

Source: ABS Catalogue 6401.0

**GRAPH 9.2 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: COMPONENTS OF CHANGE  
DARWIN AND EIGHT CAPITAL CITIES: 1992-93**  
% change from previous finance year



Source: ABS Catalogue 6401.0

## Retail Prices

The retail price of consumables continues to be a target of attention in the community as the impact of changes affects all. The price of milk increased between 1991 and 1992 but has remained steady from September 1992 until September 1993. Bread, and toilet and bathroom requisites such as soap and toothpaste have increased each year since 1990. Fuel and full-strength alcohol prices have increased but these may be largely attributable to changes in government policy during recent times. Fresh produce prices have also fluctuated in the past four years in line with the uncertainties of supply and general conditions applicable to the produce market.

**TABLE 9.3 AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ITEMS, DARWIN**

Item	Unit	Sep Qtr	Sep Qtr	Sep Qtr	Sep Qtr
		1990	1991	1992	1993
cents					
Milk, carton (a)	1 litre	88	89	94	94
Butter	500g	204	180	189	166
Bread, white sliced	680g	143	155	165	168
Rice, medium grain	1kg	133	134	143	141
Rump steak	1kg	1,046	1,134	1,228	1,218
Chicken, frozen	1kg	346	347	331	357
Salmon, pink	210g can	304	280	259	280
Oranges	1kg	136	136	128	116
Bananas	1kg	202	276	183	184
Carrots	1kg	182	164	154	167
Onions	1kg	161	116	108	201
Peas, frozen	500g pkt	173	168	176	174
Eggs	55g, 1 doz	251	255	247	246
Tea	250g	184	185	183	199
Coffee, instant	150g jar	443	455	460	449
Baked beans	440g	102	112	106	115
Laundry detergent	1kg	425	462	508	477
Pet food	415g	100	99	103	100
Petrol, super grade	1 litre	68.0	70.9	73.9	74.2
Draught beer, full strength, public bar	285ml glass	172	184	190	196
Scotch nip, public bar	30ml	236	248	260	272
Toilet soap	2 x 125g	149	168	177	181
Toothpaste	140g	216	218	244	245

(a) Darwin price relates to blended milk

Source: ABS Catalogue 6403.0

# CHAPTER 10 AGRICULTURE AND FISHING

## Overview

Rural industries played a significant role in pioneering the development of the Northern Territory. Both the agriculture and fishing industries continue to be major contributors to diversified regional economic growth by providing employment opportunities and export income for Territorians, especially those living in remote areas.

In 1991-92 the agriculture and fishing industries contributed 3.7 per cent to the Territory's Gross State Product and directly employed an estimated 4,000 people. The NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries estimates that the gross value of the agriculture and fishing industries increased by 18.3 per cent to \$255.5 million in 1992. The rural economy is dominated by pastoral production, horticulture and commercial fishing.

**TABLE 10.1 NUMBER, AREA AND LAND UTILISATION OF RURAL ESTABLISHMENTS**

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Number of establishments	290	278	270	257	270	271
			'000 hectares			
Area used for crops	12	13	11	9	6	5
Area under sown pasture	51	64	147	148	72	252
Balance (a)	71,175	69,505	68,169	66,394	68,695	68,482
<b>Total area</b>	<b>71,238</b>	<b>69,582</b>	<b>68,327</b>	<b>66,551</b>	<b>68,773</b>	<b>68,739</b>

(a) Native pasture, scrub etc

Source: ABS Catalogues 7102.0 & 7330.0

## Pastoral

Until the mid-1960's pastoralism was the major industry contributing to the Northern Territory economy, but it has now been surpassed by mining and tourism. The value of livestock slaughterings, other disposals and livestock products in 1992 was \$125 million, an increase of 3.3 per cent from 1991.

During the last decade the pastoral industry has undergone significant changes. The main objectives have been to:

- eradicate bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis (eradication phase achieved) and to continue to monitor the NT herd;
- increase the size of the controlled breeding herd following the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign (BTEC);
- improve industry productivity;
- expand domestic and overseas markets, with particular emphasis on live exports and meat to satisfy the quality specifications of customers; and

- support secondary processing in the Territory where comparative economic advantage exists.

Whereas prior management practices concentrated on the exploitation of open range grazing and feral herds, the post-BTEC phase and the need to maintain disease-free status now require more intensive production techniques.

**TABLE 10.2 LIVESTOCK**

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
<i>Livestock numbers ('000)</i>						
Cattle (a)	1,439	1,385	1,388	1,327	1,353	1,334
Pigs (a)	7	3	3	2	2	3
Domesticated buffalo (a)	15	16	13	14	19	13
Livestock slaughterings (b)	123	144	144	151	151	139

(a) Numbers at 31 March (b) Cattle and buffalo slaughtered at NT abattoirs. Includes estimate for 'own consumption' on holding.

Source: ABS Catalogues 7221.0 & 7502.0

The number of cattle and buffalo turned off in 1992 increased by 7.0 per cent from 1991 to 390,452 head. This was largely due to drought conditions during 1992 and to the expanding live cattle export trade. Cattle and buffalo numbers slaughtered in Territory abattoirs decreased by 8.0 per cent to 138,900 while live interstate movements increased by 11.8 per cent to 187,267 head.

**TABLE 10.3 LIVE EXPORTS BY DESTINATION**

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<i>Livestock numbers</i>					
Brunei	8,675	6,874	6,067	8,193	9,343
Indonesia	872	272	3,089	8,960	17,972
Philippines	8,292	21,377	8,990	15,582	36,569
Sabah	9,649	9,680	10,029	10,683	9,606
Sarawak	2,493	1,799	1,798	2,084	950
West Malaysia	7,834	6,270	6,074	9,088	8,045
Yemen	1,022	-	-	-	-
Cuba	-	1,267	-	-	-
<b>Total livestock exported overseas (a)</b>	<b>38,837</b>	<b>47,539</b>	<b>36,047</b>	<b>54,590</b>	<b>82,485</b>

(a) Includes live exports via Darwin and Wyndham

Source: NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

In the 1992 calendar year 82,485 Northern Territory cattle and buffalo were exported overseas through the Ports of Darwin and Wyndham. The main destinations for these were the Philippines (36,569 head), Indonesia (17,972 head) and Sabah (9,606 head). The majority of these live exports (65.2 per cent) were for fattening. Cattle intended for immediate slaughter made up 22.5 per cent while cattle intended for breeding totalled 12.3 per cent.

## Horticulture

There has been some decline in the area of land under crops in recent years, particularly in cereal grains and sorghum and green feed. Horticulture has expanded rapidly with the value of horticultural production increasing to \$29.0 million in 1992.

TABLE 10.4 AREA OF CROPS

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
hectares						
Cereal for grain	6,373	8,188	5,731	4,720	2,612	2,395
Crops for green feed or silage	2,543	2,257	1,092	820	775	471
Fruit	523	642	1,034	763	710	856
Vegetables	453	549	490	470	459	276
All other crops	1,855	1,425	2,280	817	1,277	747
<b>Total crops</b>	<b>11,747</b>	<b>13,061</b>	<b>10,627</b>	<b>7,590</b>	<b>5,833</b>	<b>4,745</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue 7330.0

The principal commodities produced in the Territory include mangoes, melons, table grapes, vegetables and bananas. Mango production remains the single largest horticultural crop in the Territory with production increasing as more trees mature. Total quantity production increased in 1992 compared to 1991. Mango production increased 100.0 per cent, grapes 61.7 per cent and bananas 56.4 per cent. The real value of mango production is likely to be substantially higher than the \$10.9 million officially reported, due to the 'back garden' industry which supplies a share of produce for local and interstate markets.

An estimated 82.9 per cent of the value of horticultural production was sold interstate, 3.2 per cent was exported, and 13.9 per cent was sold locally. New South Wales is the major destination for horticultural produce with 23.1 per cent of the value of all produce being sold to this market. Singapore and Hong Kong are the main overseas destinations of Territory horticultural produce.

**TABLE 10.5 HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION**

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
	Value ( \$m )				
Mangoes	3.5	6.2	6.9	6.2	10.9
Table grapes	0.5	1.6	2.1	2.4	4.5
Melons	5.2	5.9	5.4	3.1	1.9
Bananas	0.7	0.9	1.4	2.2	3.5
Other fruit	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.8
Vegetables	3.0	3.2	3.7	3.2	4.0
Nursery	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3.4	3.4
<b>Total value</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>29.0</b>

*Source:* NT Budget Paper 1992/93 - Rural Industries and Fisheries and NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

## Fishing

The Northern Territory fishing industry encompasses commercial and recreational activity based on the natural resources of the seas and inland waterways. In addition there is an established pearl industry and a developing aquaculture industry for the production of prawns, barramundi and other productive species. Continual emphasis is being given to responsible management of fishery resources to ensure that the level of fishing does not exceed long-term sustainable limits.

Commercial fishing in the Territory is dominated by the catch of prawns which accounted for an estimated 79.4 per cent of the total value of production in 1991-92.

Resource management is an integral component of long-term fisheries development in the Northern Territory. Within the Northern Prawn Fishery, management measures have been introduced to reduce the overall prawn fishing effort across northern Australia. A reduction to 125 fishing vessels was implemented in April 1993.

Although still in the early stages of development, aquaculture is expected to make an important contribution to the Territory in the long-term. The barramundi hatchery has had considerable success in production of fry with small scale commercial grow-out enterprises now operating in the Darwin regions.

Prawn farming and redclaw crayfish are other aquaculture industries in which there is good potential for expansion. Commercial prawn harvesting commenced in 1992.

**TABLE 10.6 FISHING: LANDINGS AND VALUE (a)**

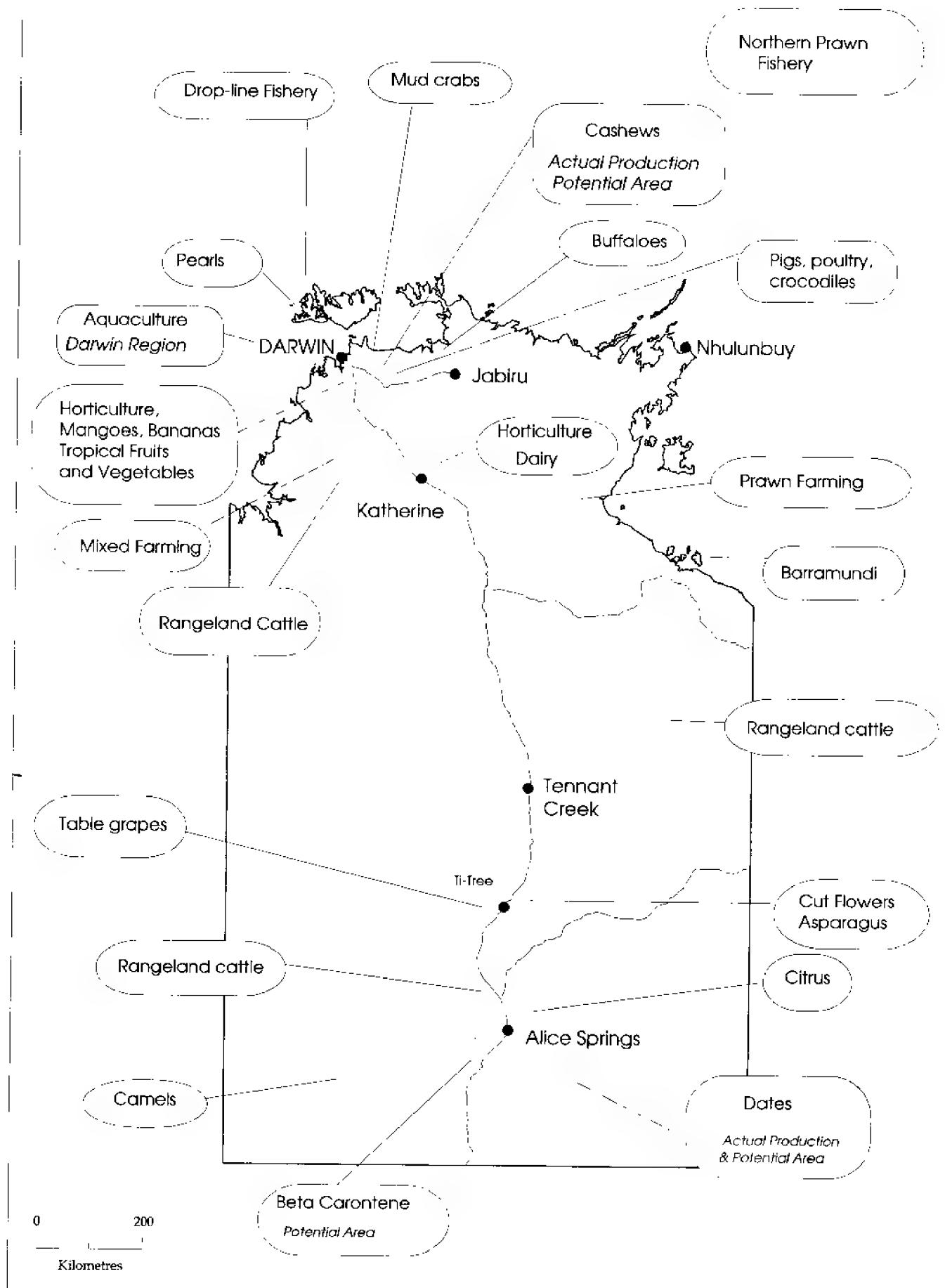
	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
<i>Live weight of catch ('000 kg)</i>					
<b>Fish</b>					
Barramundi	550	613	550	457	457
Threadfin Salmon	327	256	198	257	199
Total fish	2,576	2,886	2,975	2,608	2,781
<b>Crustaceans</b>					
Prawns	3,880	3,361	2,565	3,733	3,930
Total crustaceans	4,040	3,519	2,779	2,857	4,145
<b>Molluscs</b>					
Total molluscs	25	25	37	28	120
<b>Total live weight</b>	<b>6,640</b>	<b>6,430</b>	<b>5,792</b>	<b>5,493</b>	<b>7,046</b>
<i>Estimated value (\$ '000)</i>					
<b>Fish</b>					
Barramundi	1,983	2,242	2,052	1,721	1,689
Threadfin Salmon	478	380	309	399	291
Total fish	4,852	5,722	5,800	6,129	7,408
<b>Crustaceans</b>					
Prawns	38,859	22,546	21,001	23,954	35,371
Total crustaceans	39,913	23,550	22,276	24,870	36,832
<b>Molluscs</b>					
Total molluscs	52	59	111	70	326
<b>Total value</b>	<b>44,817</b>	<b>29,331</b>	<b>28,188</b>	<b>31,070</b>	<b>44,565</b>

(a) Excludes aquaculture

Source: NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

**Crocodile Production** Production in the emerging crocodile industry in 1991-92 amounted to 2,714 kilograms of flesh and 4,476 skins at an estimated value of \$27,000 and \$815,200 respectively as well as \$22,500 of other crocodile products. (Source: ABS data, DPIF data, and Budget Paper No 6 prepared by Graham Kirby, DPIF)

# RURAL AND FISHING INDUSTRIES



# CHAPTER 11

## MINING AND MINERAL EXPLORATION

### Mining Industry

Mining stands out as the predominant sector in the Northern Territory economy. It accounts for 20.8 per cent of NT Gross State Product, whereas nationally mining contributes only 4.9 per cent to Australia's Gross Domestic Product. The Territory is richly endowed with a variety of mineral resources including gold, lead, silver, uranium, bauxite, manganese and petroleum resources both offshore and onshore.

There were 37 establishments involved in the mining of metallic minerals, oil and gas operating in the Northern Territory in 1991-92, compared with 499 establishments in Australia.

**TABLE 11.1 MINING ESTABLISHMENTS**

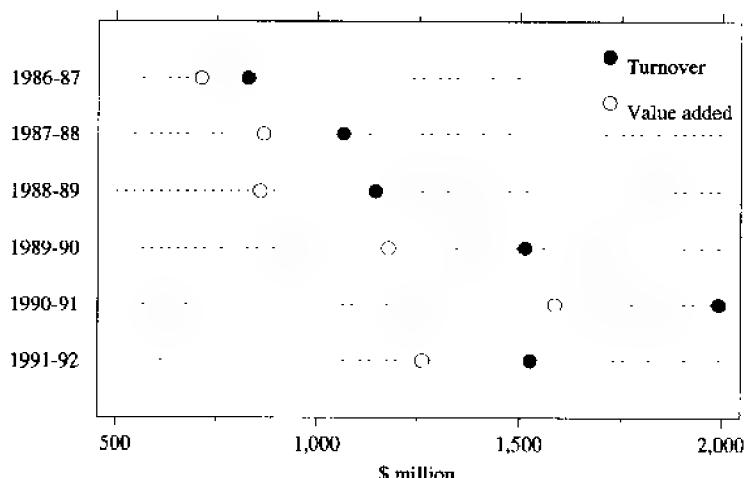
	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Establishments operating at 30 June	3?	37	22	39	42	37
Employment at 30 June (a)	2,128	2,188	2,206	2,379	1,962	1,759
<i>\$ million</i>						
Wages and salaries (b)	70.2	80.2	86.6	94.7	94.5	91.5
Turnover	826.9	1,063.9	1,144.1	1,514.1	1,992.3	1,526.7
Stocks						
Opening	208.0	277.2	293.8	263.2	279.9	221.8
Closing	286.9	293.9	279.2	261.4	222.2	254.4
Purchases, transfers in and selected expenses	194.7	214.9	272.6	335.7	347.0	299.4
Value added	711.2	865.8	857.0	1,176.6	1,587.9	1,259.9

Note: Excludes operations in construction and other non-metallic minerals from 1988-89. (a) Includes working proprietors. (b) Excludes amounts drawn by working proprietors.

Source: ABS Catalogue 8402.0

The total number of persons directly employed in the mining industry in the Northern Territory at 30 June 1992 was 1,759. The decrease from 1991-92 of 203 employees was mainly due to a loss of administration staff. Establishments in the Northern Territory employed an average of 47.5 persons per establishment compared to an average of 123.5 persons for Australia.

**GRAPH 11.1 MINING ESTABLISHMENTS  
TURNOVER AND VALUE ADDED**



Note: From 1988-89 excludes operations in construction and non-metallic minerals.  
Source: ABS Catalogue 8402.0

Turnover in the mining industry in 1991-92 was \$1,526.7 million or 5.4 per cent of the Australian turnover. This was a 23.4 per cent decrease from the previous financial year (\$1,992.3 million) and a 1.5 per cent decrease in contribution to the Australian total. Value added was \$1,259.9 million in 1991-92, a decrease of \$328 million or 20.7 per cent.

Total wages and salaries paid for the year were \$91.5 million or an average of \$52,018 per employee. This compares to an average of \$57,741 for those employed in mining for the whole of Australia.

Fixed capital expenditure of \$153.1 million in 1991-92 was down by 1.4 per cent from \$155.2 million in 1990-91. The industry spent \$299.4 million on total purchases, transfers in and selected expenses during the 1991-92 financial year. This was a decrease of 13.7 per cent from 1990-91.

The mining industry purchased a total of \$55.5 million worth of fuel in the 1991-92 financial year. This included \$23.5 million for automotive diesel, \$22.6 million for electricity and \$6.4 million on industrial and diesel fuel.

The mining industry spent a total \$9.5 million on environmental protection. The majority was current expenditure (\$8.9 million) which represented three per cent of total current expenditure for the NT mining industry (\$299.4 million), the highest percentage of all states or territories.

## Mineral Production

In 1991-92, in terms of quantity, the Northern Territory produced 16.5 per cent of Australia's bauxite, 7.8 per cent of gold bullion, and 68.1 per cent of manganese. The total quantity of uranium produced in Australia is not published, but in terms of value, 74.0 per cent of Australia's uranium is from the Northern Territory.

**TABLE 11.2 VALUE OF MINERAL, OIL & GAS PRODUCTION**

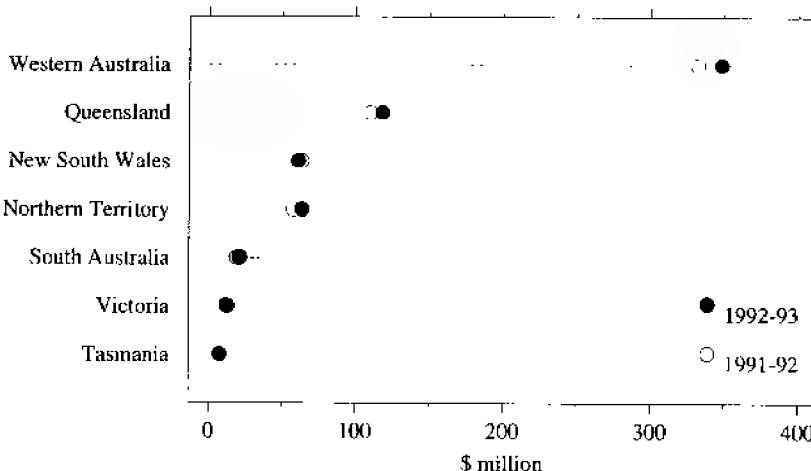
<i>Selected commodities</i>	<i>1989-90</i>	<i>1990-91</i>	<i>1991-92</i>
\$'000			
Bauxite	160,888	148,809	137,604
Gold bullion	373,851	306,905	329,342
Manganese ore	260,795	223,530	119,664
Uranium concentrate	228,062	206,570	178,660
Other metallic minerals	76,766	90,459	54,203
Crude oil	534,883	867,854	650,841
Natural gas	19,755	21,514	22,504
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,655,000</b>	<b>1,865,641</b>	<b>1,492,818</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue 8405.0

## Mineral Exploration

Mineral exploration expenditure (other than for petroleum) in the Northern Territory accounts for 10.1 per cent of the total mineral exploration expenditure in Australia although the value of exploration in Western Australia is by far the largest (Graph 11.2). Northern Territory mineral exploration expenditure in 1992-93 totalled \$63.5 million which was a 9.9 per cent increase from the previous financial year.

**GRAPH 11.2 MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE BY STATE**



Source: ABS Catalogue 8412.0

**TABLE 11.3 PRIVATE MINERAL EXPLORATION BY TYPE OF MINERAL SOUGHT (a)**

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
	\$ million					
Copper, lead, zinc, silver, nickel, cobalt	3.3	3.6	7.1	12.2	13.7	13.0
Gold	32.6	41.3	37.9	30.4	32.7	39.0
Iron ore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mineral sands	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-	-	0.4
Tin, tungsten, scheelite, wolfram	0.1	n.p.	0.5	0.2	n.p.	-
Uranium	8.0	12.3	8.8	3.7	4.2	2.7
Coal	n.p.	-	-	-	-	n.p.
Construction materials (b)	0.1	-	-	n.p.	n.p.	-
Diamonds	2.5	4.9	n.p.	7.2	6.7	7.5
Other (c)	1.7	0.7	0.1	n.p.	0.4	n.p.
<b>Total exploration expenditure</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>63.5</b>

(a) Other than for petroleum. (b) Comprising aggregate, sand, gravel and all stone used for construction. (c) Includes precious metals other than silver and gemstones other than diamonds.

Source: ABS Catalogue 8412.0

Exploration for the following minerals is taking place in the Territory: gold, base metals (copper, lead, zinc, silver, nickel and cobalt), diamonds, uranium and a small amount of other minerals. In the 1992-93 financial year private mineral exploration totalled \$63.5 million.

The most significant expenditure was dedicated to the search for gold at \$39.0 million or 61.4 per cent of the total.

Significant expenditure was also dedicated to the exploration of base metals mainly zinc, lead and silver. Expenditure on exploration for base metals decreased slightly to \$13.0 million in 1992-93.

Expenditure on diamond exploration increased by 11.9 per cent in 1992-93 to \$7.5 million.

Expenditure on uranium exploration decreased by 35.7 per cent to \$2.7 million.

## Petroleum Exploration and Production

Expenditure for petroleum exploration in the Northern Territory and administered waters was down to almost \$51 million in 1992. This represented a reduction in exploration expenditure of \$89.3 million or 64 per cent when compared to 1991. Onshore exploration, however, increased from \$12.9 million to \$14.1 million. Offshore exploration expenditure decreased from \$127 million in 1991 to \$36.5 million in 1992 but still accounted for 72 per cent of total exploration expenditure. Expenditure on offshore development fell to \$4.3 million and \$2.3 million was spent on onshore development.

Territory fields produced 4,028 megalitres of oil (hydrocarbon petroleum) in 1992 with a value of \$756 million. This was an increase in production of approximately 12 per cent when compared to 1991 totals. Oil production in the Northern Territory is dominated by offshore fields in the Timor Sea which accounted for 97 per cent of total production in 1992. Onshore oil production contributed \$14 million to the total value.

Natural gas fields produced over 338,527 megalitres of gas in 1992 which was valued at \$23 million, a similar value to 1991. Natural gas production in the Northern Territory is dominated by fields in the Central Australian region. (*Source: Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy, Northern Territory Petroleum Report, 5th Edition, March 1993*)

GRAPH 11.3 TOTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTION



Note: 1 megalitre = 6289.987 US barrels  
Source: NT Dept. of Mines & Energy

## **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY IN NORTHERN TERRITORY**

### **Solar Energy**

The Northern Territory has abundant sunshine, especially in the arid areas of Central Australia, which provides almost perfect conditions for harnessing this natural source of energy. A 50 hectre plot of land in the NT receives solar energy equivalent to that of an oil well producing about 1600 barrels of crude oil a day or a coal mine producing 360 tonnes of black coal daily.

The use of solar energy for domestic hot water heating is a proven application throughout the NT where proportionately more households have solar hot water systems than elsewhere in Australia. Solar-powered water pumps, street lighting and special purpose lighting systems are being used in remote communities and cattle stations throughout the Territory. Police and Emergency Services and the Conservation Commission are also using small solar inverter units to power equipment and lighting. Telecom has solved the problem of how to pass electronic telephone signals across a vast and sparcely populated landscape in an economical and technically efficient manner by using solar powered repeater stations, which require little or no supervision or maintenance. These solar systems provide 300-500 watts of power each, eliminating the need for three diesel motors for each repeater station.

An alternative energy section was set up in the Mines and Energy Department in the early 1980's and the Power and Water Authority (PAWA) has also been investigating and gaining experience in alternative energy technologies since the late 1980's. Both bodies are currently involved in several major research and development projects.

At Jilkminggan, an Aboriginal community 400 km south-east of Darwin, PAWA has commissioned a hybrid power plant which will be a prototype for other rural communities. This power plant uses solar photovoltaic panels, incorporating a battery and inverter system, and regulated diesel engines.

In November 1992, the Energy Research Centre of the Australian National University completed a pre-feasibility study for the construction of a solar energy generation plant at Tennant Creek. Using 28 parabolic solar dishes in an arrangement known as 'Big Dish' technology, the project is expected to generate approximately 2MW of electricity and will include provision for gas fired backup to enable continued operation during cloudy periods and at night.

### **Tidal Power**

In a joint initiative with the Northern Territory University, PAWA is involved in a three year research project which aims to use tidal power (kinetic energy) on a small scale to generate electricity for coastal communities. The Apsley Straits between Bathurst and Melville Islands immediately to the North of Darwin have been chosen for the project because of the intensity of tidal movements (a tide that can rise and fall over 7 metres in a day), through the relatively narrow channel, just 600 metres wide.

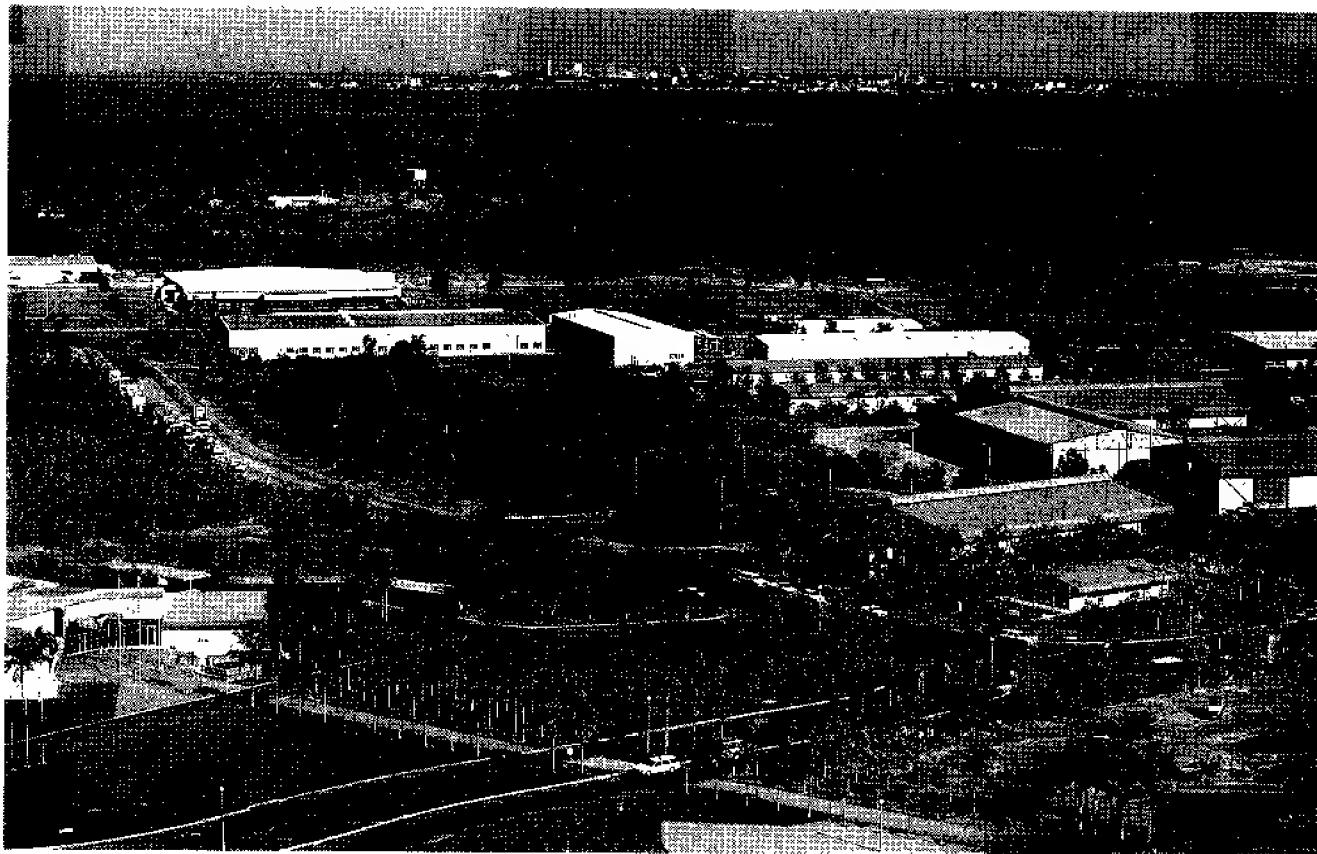
*Source: PAWA Annual Report*

## CHAPTER 12      MANUFACTURING

The manufacturing industry in the Northern Territory contributed an estimated \$181 million, or 4.6 per cent, to Gross State Product (GSP) in 1991-92. The manufacturing industry Australia-wide contributed \$52,284 million or 14.7 per cent, to the national Gross Domestic Product which totalled \$342,080 million. There were 194 manufacturing establishments recorded in the Northern Territory in 1991-92. The largest number of establishments was in the fabricated metal products industry with 40 establishments, followed by the wood, wood products and furniture industry with 28 establishments; and the food, beverages and tobacco industry with 26 establishments.

### Turnover and employment

In 1991-92 the manufacturing industry had a total turnover of \$673.0 million, down \$50.9 million or 7.0 per cent over the previous financial year. Wages and salaries paid increased slightly from \$89.4 million to \$91.9 million over the same period, while employment levels decreased slightly.



Trade Development Zone Darwin.  
*Photo: Courtesy of NT Department of Industries and Development.*

**TABLE 12.1 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS: SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS  
BY INDUSTRY SUBDIVISION**

ASIC Code - Industry subdivision, Description	Number of Establishments					
	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92			
21 Food, beverages and tobacco	20	20	26			
23 Textiles	4	5	5			
24 Clothing and footwear	2	1	1			
25 Wood, wood products & furniture	25	30	28			
26 Paper, paper products, printing & publishing	16	24	19			
27 Chemical, petroleum & coal products	1	1	3			
28 Non-metallic mineral products	19	17	17			
29 Basic metal products	3	6	4			
31 Fabricated metal products	36	47	40			
32 Transport equipment	11	12	15			
33 Other machinery & equipment	14	17	19			
34 Miscellaneous manufacturing	21	19	17			
<b>Total Manufacturing</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>194</b>			
Employment at End of June - '000 (No.)						
21 Food, beverages and tobacco	0.6	0.6	0.6			
23 Textiles	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.			
24 Clothing and footwear	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.			
25 Wood, wood products & furniture	0.2	0.2	0.2			
26 Paper, paper products, printing & publishing	0.4	0.4	0.3			
27 Chemical, petroleum & coal products	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.			
28 Non-metallic mineral products	n.p.	0.2	0.1			
29 Basic metal products	1.3	0.8	n.p.			
31 Fabricated metal products	-	0.4	0.3			
32 Transport equipment	0.1	0.2	0.2			
33 Other machinery & equipment	0.1	0.1	0.1			
34 Miscellaneous manufacturing	0.1	0.1	0.1			
<b>Total Manufacturing</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>			
Wages & Salaries (\$m)						
21 Food, beverages and tobacco	15.0	15.7	15.0			
23 Textiles	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.			
24 Clothing and footwear	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.			
25 Wood, wood products & furniture	4.3	5.1	5.9			
26 Paper, paper products, printing & publishing	9.1	8.5	8.9			
27 Chemical, petroleum & coal products	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.			
28 Non-metallic mineral products	n.p.	4.4	5.2			
29 Basic metal products	}	46.4	}	46.1	}	n.p.
31 Fabricated metal products						
32 Transport equipment		2.3		4.0		4.5
33 Other machinery & equipment		1.4		1.7		4.1
34 Miscellaneous manufacturing		2.2		1.8		2.0
<b>Total Manufacturing</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>91.9</b>			
Turnover (\$m)						
21 Food, beverages and tobacco	109.2	100.1	103.9			
23 Textiles	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.			
24 Clothing and footwear	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.			
25 Wood, wood products & furniture	18.0	21.2	24.7			
26 Paper, paper products, printing & publishing	29.4	27.6	27.1			
27 Chemical, petroleum & coal products	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.			
28 Non-metallic mineral products	n.p.	51.0	47.9			
29 Basic metal products	}	360.8	}	488.6	}	n.p.
31 Fabricated metal products						
32 Transport equipment		6.9		12.0		12.8
33 Other machinery & equipment		6.2		7.6		16.0
34 Miscellaneous manufacturing		8.8		7.5		9.1
<b>Total Manufacturing</b>	<b>586.2</b>	<b>723.9</b>	<b>673.0</b>			

Source: ABS Catalogue 8221.7

# CHAPTER 13      HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION

## Residential Building

Of the 1,480 dwelling units approved for construction in the Northern Territory in 1992-93 only 103 (7.0 per cent) were public sector funded. This was the lowest number of public sector dwelling unit approvals in the six year period from 1987-88.

During 1992-93, 1,323 dwellings units were completed, of which 914 were houses and 409 were flats, units or townhouses. The private sector funded 82.6 per cent of the dwelling units completed. Approximately 10 per cent of dwellings under construction at the end of 1992-93 were funded by the public sector.

**TABLE 13.1 NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS**

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Approvals						
Houses - Private sector	505	553	477	525	728	961
Houses - Public sector	283	147	139	115	244	94
Other dwelling units - Private	283	262	178	222	438	416
Other dwelling units - Public	63	117	92	65	49	9
Total	1,134	1,079	886	927	1,459	1,480
Commencements						
Houses (a) - Private sector	450	470	462	465	669	744
Houses - Public sector	370	134	113	131	252	84
Other dwelling units - Private	318	244	183	189	390	353
Other dwelling units - Public	86	89	105	69	46	13
Total	1,220	940	863	854	1,357	1,194
Under construction (b)						
Houses (a) - Private sector	250	330	289	298	363	344
Houses - Public sector	410	68	94	42	128	53
Other dwelling units - Private	176	173	114	112	158	170
Other dwelling units - Public	94	78	52	38	65	7
Total	930	650	549	490	714	574
Completions						
Houses (a) - Private sector	450	390	494	443	599	755
Houses - Public sector	284	476	87	196	166	159
Other dwelling units - Private	269	244	242	187	344	338
Other dwelling units - Public	184	105	131	83	19	71
Total	1,180	1,210	954	909	1,128	1,323

(a) Figures for new houses are rounded to the nearest 10 units until 1988-89. (b) At end of period

Source: ABS Catalogue 8731.7 and 8752.7

During 1993, officers of the Building Branch, Department of Lands, Housing and Local Government participated in a national review of the Building Code of Australia (BCA). The outcome of this exercise was a 60 per cent reduction in the State and Territory variations to the Building Code of Australia. The variations which now remain are those required for local climatological or geographical reasons only.

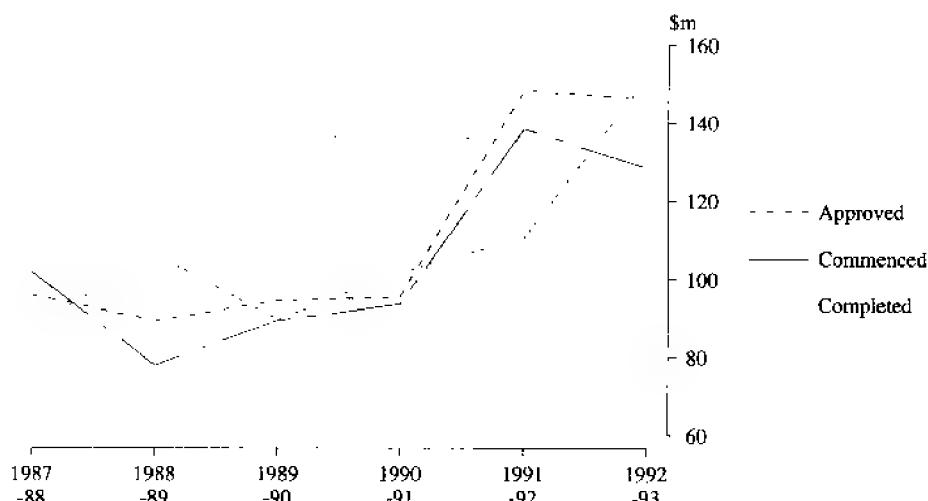
**TABLE 13.2 VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING**  
(\$ million)

	New residential building			Total all new residential building	Alterations & additions to residential buildings	Total residential building	Total building including non-residential building
	Houses	Other residential buildings	Total Private sector				
Approvals							
1987-88	59.6	18.6	50.6	78.2	17.7	95.9	287.0
1988-89	51.2	21.8	53.4	73.0	16.3	89.2	187.9
1989-90	57.2	19.5	52.9	76.6	18.0	94.6	275.1
1990-91	54.1	24.4	61.0	78.5	17.0	95.5	247.5
1991-92	93.2	37.0	89.9	130.2	17.8	148.1	241.3
1992-93	99.0	28.2	110.5	127.2	19.2	146.4	227.5
Commencements							
1987-88	63.0	23.8	51.2	86.9	14.9	101.8	252.8
1988-89	46.5	19.7	47.5	66.2	11.8	78.0	180.2
1989-90	51.7	20.3	52.1	72.0	17.4	89.4	222.8
1990-91	53.9	22.1	54.3	76.0	17.6	93.6	295.3
1991-92	89.7	32.2	81.0	121.9	16.5	138.4	222.2
1992-93	82.5	26.3	92.3	108.8	19.6	128.4	221.6
Completions							
1987-88	49.5	26.9	48.1	76.4	11.2	87.6	245.1
1988-89	74.2	20.8	43.3	94.9	11.4	106.3	260.4
1989-90	46.6	23.5	53.0	70.1	19.5	89.6	214.0
1990-91	63.0	22.1	54.9	85.1	16.9	102.0	200.1
1991-92	70.4	25.2	70.5	95.5	14.9	110.4	305.2
1992-93	90.5	39.3	94.7	129.8	21.7	151.5	227.6

Source: ABS Catalogues 8731.7 and 8752.7

The value of residential building approved and commenced fell slightly in 1992-93 when compared to the previous financial year. The value of residential building completed however, was \$41.1 million (37.2 per cent) higher in 1992-93 than in 1991-92.

**GRAPH 13.1 VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING**  
\$ million



Source: ABS Catalogues 8731.7 & 8752.7

## Non Residential

The value of non-residential building approved in 1992-93 decreased by 13.0 per cent when compared to the previous financial year. The total of \$81.1 million is the lowest value recorded since 1982-83.

The public sector funded 64.1 per cent of the value of non-residential building approved, 62.3 per cent of the value of non-residential building commenced and 57.0 per cent of the value of non-residential building completed.

**TABLE 13.3 VALUE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING (\$ million)**

	<i>Hotels motels hostels etc</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Factories</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Other business premises</i>	<i>Educa- tional</i>	<i>Religious</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Enter- tainment &amp; recreat- ional</i>	<i>Miscell- aneous</i>	<i>Total non- residential building</i>	<i>Total Sector non- residential building</i>
<b>Approvals</b>												
1987-88	39.1	24.5	1.6	40.7	19.9	12.8	0.8	24.4	8.1	19.2	191.1	61.1
1988-89	18.5	8.7	8.8	11.6	10.5	14.3	0.4	0.9	2.3	22.6	98.6	40.5
1989-90	4.5	13.2	6.0	18.7	71.8	11.7	0.9	5.8	11.4	36.5	180.5	132.3
1990-91	8.6	6.3	1.7	78.9	16.9	10.4	0.5	0.9	3.7	24.0	152.0	106.8
1991-92	2.5	9.9	1.5	10.0	21.7	22.2	-	8.2	1.3	16.0	93.2	55.0
1992-93	1.7	3.2	1.4	22.1	10.1	13.0	0.2	8.6	1.1	19.6	81.1	52.0
<b>Commencements</b>												
1987-88	18.3	10.3	3.0	41.2	16.7	11.2	0.6	25.5	7.4	16.8	151.0	61.0
1988-89	18.4	12.2	8.1	10.1	10.7	13.3	0.4	0.7	3.0	25.3	102.2	41.1
1989-90	4.2	10.3	9.3	22.6	20.3	15.6	1.0	6.1	10.0	34.0	133.5	87.6
1990-91	8.9	6.7	2.1	77.6	63.2	10.3	0.5	0.7	5.8	25.8	201.6	155.4
1991-92	1.7	9.3	2.0	7.2	16.7	21.3	-	6.6	2.5	16.4	83.8	56.8
1992-93	1.6	2.7	1.9	25.4	12.4	17.2	0.2	10.1	0.8	20.9	93.2	58.1
<b>Completions</b>												
1987-88	19.2	30.0	5.4	30.6	18.9	7.1	1.1	5.0	3.5	36.5	157.4	69.4
1988-89	15.9	7.7	6.4	22.8	16.1	29.1	0.7	25.1	13.4	16.9	154.1	65.9
1989-90	21.6	12.2	6.2	34.3	14.9	12.7	0.6	2.0	4.0	16.0	124.4	65.2
1990-91	3.6	11.9	8.2	14.4	18.2	11.1	0.9	4.7	2.9	22.4	98.2	55.0
1991-92	8.6	8.3	0.9	9.2	67.8	18.8	0.4	2.1	11.4	67.2	194.7	151.6
1992-93	1.5	5.5	3.0	8.7	14.6	12.9	0.1	8.6	2.0	19.1	76.1	43.4

Source: ABS Catalogues 8731.7 and 8752.7

A new *Building Act* was passed through the Legislative Assembly on 25 May 1993 transferring the responsibility for the physical aspects of building control from the Government to Industry. Regulations to support the Act were also completed. This act has meant the development and implementation of a system of building control based on private certification. Qualified persons from the private sector may now register as certifiers and assume the responsibility for approving plans, inspecting and passing construction of buildings and issuing of completion certificates. As the building progresses the Certifier is required to lodge the specified forms and notices with the Building Branch of Department of Lands, Housing & Local Government. (Source: Department of Lands, Housing & Local Government 1992-93 Annual Report)

**TABLE 13.4 SUMMARY OF BUILDING COMMENCED IN SELECTED AREAS,  
NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1992-93**

Selected Statistical Areas	New residential building						Value (\$'000)		
	Houses		Other residential buildings		Total		Alterations & additions to residential buildings	Non-residential building	Total building
	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$'000)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$'000)	Number of dwelling units	Value (\$'000)			
Private Sector									
Darwin City (SSD)	59	8,313	109	8,865	168	17,178	7,305	25,936	50,419
Palmerston-East Arm (SSD)	226	16,908	59	3,460	285	20,368	770	621	21,759
<i>Darwin (SD)</i>	<i>285</i>	<i>25,221</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>12,325</i>	<i>453</i>	<i>37,546</i>	<i>8,075</i>	<i>26,557</i>	<i>72,178</i>
Alice Springs (T)	105	12,210	158	10,804	263	23,013	2,127	2,626	27,765
Katherine (T)	12	940	22	1,491	34	2,431	365	620	3,417
Tennant Creek (T)	2	110	3	200	5	310	52	227	589
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	227	18,999	1	50	228	19,049	4,555	1,490	25,094
Remainder of Balance (SSD)	113	9,789	1	160	114	9,949	2,104	3,625	15,678
<i>Northern Territory Bal (SD)</i>	<i>459</i>	<i>42,048</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>12,705</i>	<i>644</i>	<i>54,752</i>	<i>9,203</i>	<i>8,588</i>	<i>72,543</i>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>67,269</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>25,030</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>92,299</b>	<b>17,278</b>	<b>35,145</b>	<b>144,721</b>
Public Sector									
Darwin City (SSD)	26	4,285	7	469	33	4,754	142	22,261	27,157
Palmerston-East Arm (SSD)	19	1,596	-	-	19	1,596	-	810	2,406
<i>Darwin (SD)</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>5,881</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>469</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>6,350</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>23,071</i>	<i>29,563</i>
Alice Springs (T)	2	142	6	814	8	955	496	436	1,887
Katherine (T)	17	5,800	-	-	17	5,800	-	1,831	7,631
Tennant Creek (T)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	530	530
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	1	158	-	-	1	158	-	13,052	13,209
Remainder of Balance (SSD)	19	3,223	-	-	19	3,223	1,682	19,130	24,035
<i>Northern Territory Bal (SD)</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>9,322</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>814</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>10,136</i>	<i>2,178</i>	<i>34,980</i>	<i>47,294</i>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>15,203</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>16,486</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>58,051</b>	<b>76,857</b>
Total Sectors									
Darwin City (SSD)	85	12,599	116	9,334	201	21,932	7,447	48,197	77,576
Palmerston-East Arm (SSD)	245	18,504	59	3,460	304	21,964	770	1,431	24,165
<i>Darwin (SD)</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>31,102</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>12,794</i>	<i>505</i>	<i>43,896</i>	<i>8,217</i>	<i>49,628</i>	<i>101,741</i>
Alice Springs (T)	107	12,351	164	11,617	271	23,969	2,622	3,062	29,653
Katherine (T)	29	6,740	22	1,491	51	8,231	365	2,452	11,048
Tennant Creek (T)	2	110	3	200	5	310	52	757	1,119
Darwin Rural Areas (SSD)	228	19,157	1	50	229	19,207	4,555	14,542	38,303
Remainder of Balance (SSD)	132	13,012	1	160	133	13,172	3,786	22,755	39,713
<i>Northern Territory Bal (SD)</i>	<i>498</i>	<i>51,370</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>13,519</i>	<i>689</i>	<i>64,888</i>	<i>11,381</i>	<i>43,568</i>	<i>119,837</i>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>82,472</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>26,313</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>108,784</b>	<b>19,598</b>	<b>93,196</b>	<b>221,578</b>

Note: Subtotals may not add to total due to rounding

Source: ABS Unpublished Data Building Activity Survey

## Engineering Construction Activity

In the Northern Territory in 1992-93, the value of engineering construction work commenced was \$132.9 million, a decrease of 18 per cent when compared to 1991-92. The private sector contributed 86 per cent of the total value of work commenced or \$114.5 million. The value of work done during 1992-93 was almost \$138 million, about the same value as the previous financial year. There was \$47.7 million worth of work still to be done at the end of the 1992-93 financial year.

**TABLE 13.5 ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY BY TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION (\$'000)**

	Heavy industry																
	Roads, highways, & subdivisions			Water storage & supply			Sewerage & drainage			Electricity & transmission & distribution			Telecomm- unications	Oil, gas, coal & minerals	Other heavy industry	Other	Total
	Roads, highways, & subdivisions	Bridges	Harbours	Water storage & supply	Sewerage & drainage	Electricity & transmission & distribution	Pipelines	Recreation	Telecomm- unications	Oil, gas, coal & minerals	Other heavy industry	Other	Total				
Value Of Work Commenced During Period																	
1990-91	82,698	4,500	376	8,369	4,085	3,206	164	1,013	32,836	10,872	5,849	18	153,986				
1991-92	60,685	-	33,200	9,733	3,815	7,858	-	3,895	28,243	10,728	3,481	531	162,169				
1992-93	54,405	4,518	3,468	5,350	3,367	9,282	50	3,666	26,112	21,353	620	678	132,868				
Value Of Work Done During Period																	
1990-91	82,299	3,150	376	9,800	4,850	4,998	171	1,043	35,781	8,256	7,781	18	158,520				
1991-92	67,099	2,971	1,567	5,548	1,197	4,810	1	3,950	28,319	16,245	4,661	531	136,897				
1992-93	50,233	3,870	20,308	6,095	4,120	6,912	50	3,779	25,157	13,275	990	3,195	137,984				
Value Of Work Yet To Be Done																	
1990-91	14,084	2,200	-	3,773	120	-	-	25	-	7,314	2,317	-	29,833				
1991-92	8,960	-	31,633	5,330	1,422	3,704	-	155	-	1,344	263	-	52,810				
1992-93	14,369	648	16,870	324	788	2,742	-	434	958	10,526	-	-	47,658				

Note: Components may not add to totals due to rounding

Source: ABS Catalogue 8762.0

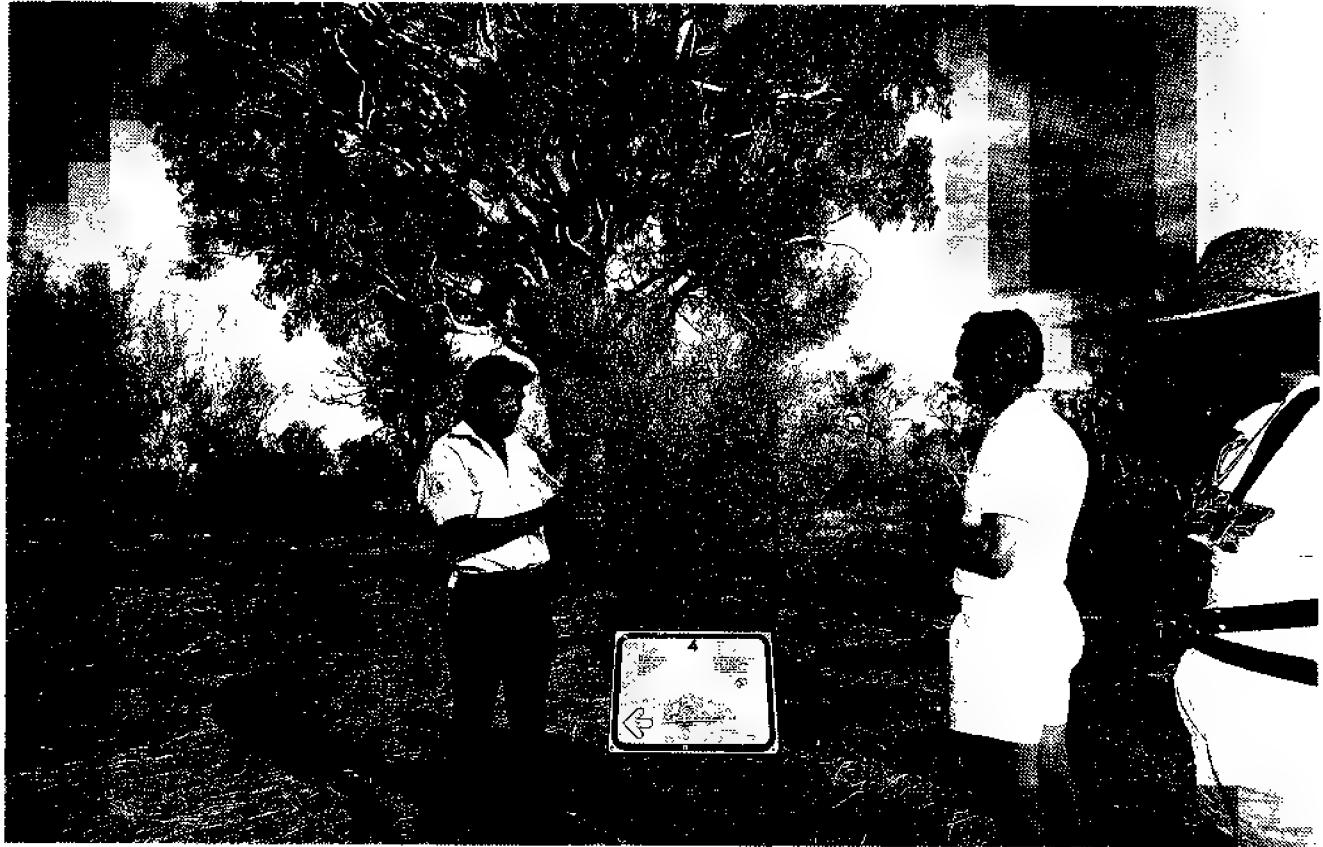
## Housing Finance

In 1992-93 banks and other credit agencies provided \$303.0 million for the purchase of 3,931 dwellings which were either to be constructed or were already established. This was a 57 per cent rise in the number of dwellings to be financed and an 84 per cent increase in the value of funds provided.

**TABLE 13.6 SECURED HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS FOR OWNER OCCUPATION**

	Number of dwelling units	\$ million
1987-88	1,515	82.2
1988-89	1,942	107.0
1989-90	1,666	91.7
1990-91	2,048	120.8
1991-92	2,497	165.0
1992-93	3,930	303.0

Source: ABS Catalogue 5609.0



Conservation Commission Ranger.

*Photo: Courtesy of Conservation Commission NT.*

## CHAPTER 14

## TOURISM

The tourism industry in the Northern Territory takes advantage of a range of natural attractions. These include Kakadu, Litchfield and Nitmiluk national parks in the Top End, and Uluru in the Red Centre. Traditionally, the majority of domestic and international visitors come to the Territory during the 'dry' season, but tourism organisations are now promoting the uniqueness of the 'wet'. The Territory's rich Aboriginal cultural heritage is also becoming a major drawcard.

The information in this chapter is drawn from the three main sources of information on tourism in the Northern Territory: the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the NT Tourist Commission (NTTC), and the Bureau of Tourism Research (BTR).

In 1991-92, Recreation, personal and other services contributed 4.6 per cent of Australia's Gross Domestic Product, and 5 per cent of the Territory's Gross State Product. (Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5220.0) Taking into account the value of Australian-produced goods and services purchased by tourists, and flow-on effects to industry, tourism is a major contributor to the Australian and Territory economies.

In 1992-93 there were 916,910 visitors to the Territory, generating 6,588,000 visitor nights and expenditure of \$557,514,000. Visitors from interstate made up 45.3 per cent of all visitors, while 30.4 per cent came from within the Territory, and 24.3 per cent were from overseas. Regionally the Top End recorded the greatest proportion of visitor activity, attracting 57.1 per cent of all visitors, while 48.3 per cent visited the Centre region. (Source: NTTC Travel Monitor)

### International Visitors

In 1992-93 there were an estimated 222,460 international visitors to the Northern Territory, an increase of 13.8 per cent from the 195,000 international visitors in 1991-92. (Source: NTTC Travel Monitor) In the 1992 calendar year an estimated 9 per cent of all international visitors to Australia spent at least one night in the Territory. International visitors spent, on average, \$1,760 each while in Australia, with almost half of this expenditure being for food, drink, accommodation and shopping. International visitors to NT spent an average of \$830 in the Territory. (Source: BTR International Visitor Survey)

**TABLE 14.1 INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO NORTHERN TERRITORY: 1992-93**

Country of residence	Region visited					Total
	Top End	Katherine	Tableland	Centre	number	
New Zealand	5,520	1,520.0	1,080.0	5,390.0	9,660.0	
Singapore	3,670	350.0	0.0	2,880.0	4,380.0	
S.E.Asia	8,410.0	150.0	0.0	1,440.0	8,840.0	
Japan	4,520.0	2,200.0	2,120.0	29,810.0	32,010.0	
U.K.	31,600.0	11,880.0	8,250.0	44,170.0	59,320.0	
U.S.A	16,600.0	3,350.0	2,570.0	25,000.0	31,410.0	
Canada	3,920.0	2,100.0	1,230.0	5,440.0	6,330.0	
Scandinavia	3,510.0	1,580.0	2,450.0	3,330.0	4,890.0	
Germany	19,650.0	9,450.0	4,470.0	22,990.0	29,360.0	
Other Europe	22,840.0	6,200.0	6,740.0	22,060.0	32,600.0	
Other	2,110.0	1,080.0	150.0	1,730.0	3,660.0	
<b>Total overseas visitors</b>	<b>122,350.0</b>	<b>39,860.0</b>	<b>29,060.0</b>	<b>164,240.0</b>	<b>222,460.0</b>	
<b>Total visitors to Northern Territory</b>	<b>523,730.0</b>	<b>177,270.0</b>	<b>114,540.0</b>	<b>442,670.0</b>	<b>916,910.0</b>	

Source: Northern Territory Travel Monitor

Table 14.1 shows that over half (56.7 per cent) of the Territory's international visitors came from Europe. Four countries dominated international visitor numbers to the Territory: United Kingdom (26.7 per cent), Japan (14.4 per cent), North America (14.1 per cent) and Germany (13.2 per cent). While 55.0 per cent of all overseas visitors to Australia spent some time in the Top End, only 14.1 per cent of tourists from Japan visited the region. In contrast, 73.8 per cent of all overseas visitors to Australia spent some time in the Centre region, while 93.1 per cent of Japanese tourists visited this region.

International visitors stayed an average of 6.3 nights in the Territory if they stayed in commercial accommodation, with an average of 15.5 nights for those visiting friends and relatives. This compares with averages of 6.6 nights and 8.3 nights respectively for all visitors to NT. (Source: NTTC Travel Monitor)

### Domestic Tourism

The ABS defines domestic tourists as those who spend at least one night away from home. Travellers spending less than one night away from home are known as daytrippers.

According to NTTC Travel Monitor results, the Northern Territory hosted 694,470 domestic tourists in 1992-93. Intrastate tourists (NT residents travelling within the Territory) accounted for 40.2 per cent of domestic tourists. Table 14.2 shows that the main sources of interstate tourists were New South Wales (23.7 per cent), South Australia (23.1 per cent), and Victoria (21.8 per cent).

**TABLE 14.2 DOMESTIC TOURISTS, NORTHERN TERRITORY: 1992-93**

State or Territory of residence	Region visited					<i>Total</i>
	<i>Top End</i>	<i>Katherine</i>	<i>Tableland</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>number</i>	
Northern Territory	166,150	62,090	17,990	49,040	278,850	
South Australia	45,780	9,620	12,580	61,300	96,180	
Queensland	38,710	11,160	9,160	26,550	61,900	
New South Wales	52,290	25,030	22,930	60,910	98,400	
Victoria	49,160	16,390	13,580	54,790	90,680	
Tasmania	9,290	3,720	2,910	6,550	12,670	
ACT	8,940	770	1,950	6,930	15,560	
Western Australia	31,040	8,600	4,380	12,350	40,230	
<b>Total interstate visitors</b>	<b>235,210</b>	<b>75,290</b>	<b>67,490</b>	<b>229,380</b>	<b>415,620</b>	
<b>Total visitors to Northern Territory</b>	<b>523,730</b>	<b>177,270</b>	<b>114,540</b>	<b>442,670</b>	<b>916,910</b>	

Source: Northern Territory Travel Monitor

Almost sixty per cent of intrastate visitors and 56.6 per cent of interstate visitors travelled within the Top End region. While 55.2 per cent of interstate visitors travelled to the Centre region, only 17.6 per cent of intrastate visitors did likewise, with 22.3 per cent visiting the Katherine region.

Intrastate visitors stayed an average of 3.1 nights in the Territory if they were staying in commercial accommodation, and an average of 2.8 nights if staying with friends and relatives. In contrast interstate visitors stayed an average of 8.5 nights in the Territory if staying in commercial accommodation, and an average of 12.7 nights if staying with friends and relatives. These figures compare with averages of 6.6 nights and 8.3 nights respectively for all visitors to NT.

## Attractions

BTR figures show that the most popular destinations for international visitors to the Territory were Uluru (73 per cent visited this attraction), Alice Springs (65 per cent), Darwin (46 per cent), and Kakadu National Park (37 per cent). Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) (22 per cent) and Kings Canyon (20 per cent) were also popular destinations. (Source: BTR International Visitor Survey, 1992).

## Tourist Accommodation

Table 14.3 shows that average annual occupancy rates increased slightly for all types of commercial accommodation from 1991-92 to 1992-93, with increases between 1.5 and 2.7 percentage points. Quarterly occupancy figures demonstrate that the peak times for tourism in the Northern Territory were the June and September quarters.

The number of persons employed in hotels, motels and guest houses increased by 8.9 per cent from June 1992 to June 1993. In contrast, the number of persons employed in caravan parks decreased by 26.7 per cent over the same period. There was a slight increase in the number of persons employed in holiday flats, units and houses, and a slight decrease in persons employed in visitor hostels.

**TABLE 14.3 TOURIST ACCOMMODATION**

	1991-92	1992-93				
		Sept	Dec	Mar	Jun	1992-93
<b>Hotel, motel and guest houses</b>						
No. of establishments	89(a)	87	91	90	90	90(a)
Persons employed	2,546(a)	2,490	2,581	2,623	2,773	2,773(a)
Room occupancy rate (%)	47.0	60.0	46.0	38.5	54.1	49.7
Takings from accommodation (\$'000)	69,504	22,733.0	17,064.0	13,443.0	19,851.0	73,091
<b>Holiday flats, units and houses</b>						
No. of letting entities	10(a)	10	10	10	10	10(a)
Persons employed	45(a)	45	49	54	52	52(a)
Unit occupancy rate (%)	60.9	71.2	57.5	57.4	65.9	63.0
Takings from accommodation (\$'000)	3,209	1,069	746	750	1,162	3,727
<b>Caravan parks</b>						
No. of establishments	77(a)	79	79	79	81	81(a)
Persons employed	449(a)	425	378	362	329	329(a)
Site occupancy rate (%)	24.6	35.9	19.9	18.0	29.8	26.1
Takings from accommodation (\$'000)	10,349	4,180	1,895	1,544	3,162	10,780
<b>Visitor hostels</b>						
No. of establishments	33(a)	34	36	37	36	36(a)
Persons employed	199(a)	171	163	166	181	181(a)
Bed occupancy rate (%)	43.3	54.2	42.4	38.2	47.3	45.6
Takings from accommodation (\$'000)	5,993	2,076	1,510	1,284	1,605	6,474

(a) as at June quarter

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Northern Territory (ABS Catalogue 8635.7)

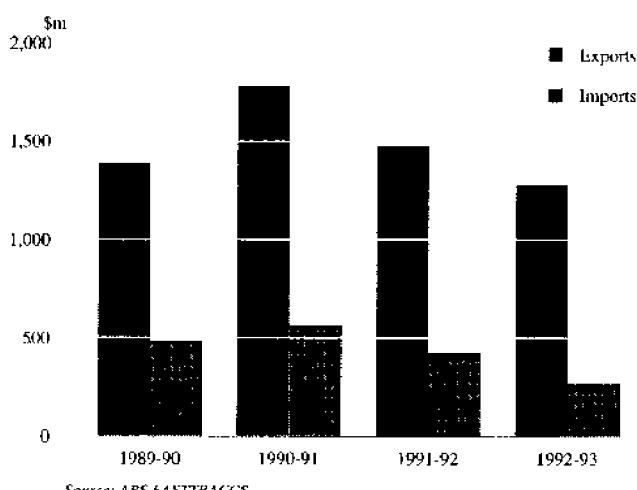
Takings from accommodation increased for all types of commercial accommodation from 1991-92 to 1992-93. The increase was 16.1 per cent for holiday flats, units and houses, 8.0 per cent for visitor hostels, 5.2 per cent for hotels, motels and guest houses, and 4.2 per cent for caravan parks.

# CHAPTER 15 TRADE AND TRANSPORT

## Overseas Trade

Northern Territory export performance during 1992-93 continued to be dependent on the export of petroleum products and minerals produced by the mining sector. Northern Territory imports continued to be largely comprised of machinery/transport equipment and mineral fuels. The balance on merchandise trade (trade balance) remains strongly positive for the Northern Territory with the total value of exports exceeding imports by \$1,008 million in 1992-93 (Graph 15.1).

GRAPH 15.1 NORTHERN TERRITORY OVERSEAS TRADE



Source: ABS FASTTRACCS

## Exports

Northern Territory merchandise exports were \$1,280 million in 1992-93, a decrease of \$201 million from the previous year (Table 15.1). The value of exports is particularly affected by changes in world commodity prices and the exchange rate. For example, the decline in exports from a high in 1990-91 should be seen in the context of the rapid oil price rise and subsequent fall at the time of the Gulf War.

Northern Territory exports as a percentage of overall Australian exports declined marginally from 2.7 per cent in 1991-92 to 2.1 per cent in 1992-93. However, Northern Territory exports per capita at \$7,607 remained over twice the national figure of \$3,441. The unclassified and confidential commodities comprise a significant proportion of the total export value and care should be taken when examining the components.

**TABLE 15.1 EXPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTION**

<i>Commodity Section</i>	<i>1989-90</i>	<i>1990-91</i>	<i>1991-92</i>	<i>1992-93</i>
	<i>\$ million</i>			
Food & live animals	47	45	76	69
Raw materials	36	38	37	29
Minerals fuels	321	754	586	525
Manufactured goods	73	26	33	22
Machinery & transport equip	-	4	4	1
Miscellaneous manufactures	8	3	2	1
Unclassified Commodities	902	912	742	627
<b>Total exports</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>1,280</b>

*Source:* FASTTRACCS

The main markets for Northern Territory exports in 1992-93 were Northeast Asia which was dominated by Japan (\$290 million) and Taiwan (\$73 million); ASEAN where Indonesia (\$144 million) and Thailand (\$76 million) were the most significant; Northern America which comprised Canada (\$160 million) and United States of America (\$144 million); and to a lesser extent Europe, where significant contributions were made by Norway (\$97 million) and Netherlands (\$52 million).

**TABLE 15.2 NORTHERN TERRITORY EXPORTS BY PREDOMINANT MARKETS**

<i>Country group</i>	<i>1991-92</i>		<i>1992-93</i>	
	<i>\$ m</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>\$ m</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Northeast Asia	526	35.5	459	35.9
Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	335	22.6	298	23.3
Northern America	334	22.6	304	23.7
European Community (EC)	157	10.6	75	5.9
European Freetrade Association	27	1.8	105	8.2
Remainder	102	6.9	39	3.0
<b>Total NT exports</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source:* FASTTRACCS

Although the percentage of exports to the main market groupings remained relatively constant between 1991-92 and 1992-93, there were some significant changes for countries within these groupings. Within Northeast Asia, decreases in exports were experienced with Japan (-\$63 million), China (-\$26 million) and Hong Kong (-\$25 million), while exports increased to Taiwan (+\$55 million). Within ASEAN, exports decreased to Indonesia (-\$121 million) but increased to Thailand (+\$43 million) and Singapore (+\$33 million). For Northern America, export declined for USA (-\$128 million) but increased to Canada (+\$97 million). For Europe, exports decreased to Netherlands (-\$59 million) and increased to Norway (+\$79 million).

## Imports

Total imports for the Northern Territory in 1992-93 were valued at \$272 million, a decrease of \$157 million or 36 per cent over the previous year. (Table 15.3). This was mainly due to a significant reduction in the import of machinery and transport equipment, although this commodity still accounted for a third of all imports to the Northern Territory. Imports into the Northern Territory are often significantly affected by aircraft imported by Australian carriers being cleared through Darwin. Mineral fuels accounted for another 27 per cent of imports.

**TABLE 15.3 IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTION**

Commodity section	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
	\$ million			
Food & live animals	1	2	1	1
Raw materials	8	7	4	5
Mineral fuels	110	114	77	73
Manufactured goods	49	38	33	30
Machinery & transport equip	185	304	233	89
Unclassified commodities	76	66	57	43
<b>Total imports</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>272</b>

*Source:* ABS FAS/TIRACCS

In 1992-93 the USA (\$76 million) was the largest source of Northern Territory imports, comprising mainly machinery/transport equipment. Japan (\$56 million) was the second largest source of imports, followed by Kuwait (\$45 million), Singapore (\$30 million), and Saudi Arabia (\$26 million).

Between 1991-92 and 1992-93, there was a significant decrease of imports from Singapore (-\$107 million), France (-\$57 million) and United Kingdom (-\$35 million), with increased imports from Kuwait (+ \$26 million) and Saudi Arabia (+\$10 million).

**TABLE 15.4 NORTHERN TERRITORY IMPORTS FROM PREDOMINANT SOURCES**

Country group	1991-92		1992-93	
	\$ m	% of total	\$ m	% of total
Northeast Asia	56	13.0	62	22.8
Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	147	34.3	42	15.4
Northern America	71	16.6	77	28.3
European Community (EC)	112	26.1	16	5.9
The Middle East	36	8.4	71	26.1
Remainder	7	1.6	4	1.5
<b>Total NT imports</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source:* ABS FAS/TIRACCS

## Shipping and Sea Freight

During 1992-93, 1,389 vessels visited the Port of Darwin. This was a reduction of 74 visiting vessels from the previous year, mainly due to fewer calls by fishing vessels and rig tenders. However there were increased numbers of calls by livestock carriers, tankers and passenger vessels. This reflects the growth in the export market for live cattle, the growing defence force presence in the north and the inclusion of Darwin on cruise routes.

**TABLE 15.5 SHIPPING AT PORT OF DARWIN**

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Vessel calls (number)						
Trading vessels (a)	154	187	179	179	221	205
Prawn/fishing trawlers	533	556	958	951	810	766
Foreign fishing vessels	171	155	158	44	6	-
Naval vessels	15	34	48	29	48	32
Other (b)	751	877	806	355	378	386
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,624</b>	<b>1,809</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>1,389</b>
Total cargo handled ('000 tonnes)	589	755	757	718	759	754

(a) In 1992-93 includes 11 cruise ships & 105 livestock carriers. (b) In 1992-93 includes 51 tankers, 172 rig tenders

Source. Darwin Port Authority Annual Report 1992-93.

Total trade volumes through the Port of Darwin declined marginally in 1992-93 from the previous year. There was a significant change in both the composition of trade and the destination of the cargo. The Darwin Port Authority reported that the total mass tonnes through the Port of Darwin was 754,321 tonnes. This tonnage included 231,383 tonnes of overseas imports and 176,795 tonnes of exports; 305,746 tonnes interstate imports; 7,561 tonnes interstate exports and 9,656 tonnes coming from and 23,180 tonnes going to other NT ports.

The tonnage of live cattle exports to the Philippines and Indonesia grew 68.9 per cent while the volume of lead and zinc to Japan, Korea and Belgium declined 22.3 per cent. Lead and zinc accounted for 46 per cent and live cattle accounted for another 24 per cent of the total mass tonnage of exports (207,536 tonnes), through the Port of Darwin in 1992-93. Petroleum products reflected the changing trading patterns with the bulk of motor spirits, aviation gasoline and other petroleum products being sourced from interstate instead of Singapore as was the case in 1991-92.

## Air Freight

There were 1,648 tonnes of freight moved into Darwin by air in the twelve months ended 30 June 1993. The main sources were: Adelaide 541 tonnes, Brisbane 474 tonnes, Alice Springs 524 tonnes, and Cairns 32 tonnes.

Outgoing domestic air freight amounted to 1,676 tonnes. Major destinations included: Brisbane 584 tonnes, Alice Springs 525 tonnes, Adelaide 328 tonnes, Kununurra 72 tonnes, Groote 47 tonnes, Gove 21 tonnes, Cairns 12 tonnes, and Sydney which dropped to 4 tonnes from 39 in 1991-92.

**TABLE 15.6 TOTAL AIR FREIGHT**

<i>Airport</i>	<i>1990-91</i>	<i>1991-92</i>	<i>1992-93</i>
<i>tonnes</i>			
Darwin	3,588	2,963	3,324
Alice Springs	2,781	2,405	3,269

*Source:* Department of Transport and Communications

Total freight handled by Alice Springs airport amounted to 3,269 tonnes, with 524 tonnes going to Darwin and 525 tonnes arriving from Darwin.

## Civil Aviation

In 1992-93 the amount of passenger traffic handled at the major Territory airports continued to improve over previous years. Alice Springs airport handled 790,371 domestic passengers, an increase of 188,842 passengers (31.4 per cent) over the previous year.

Darwin airport handled 508,732 domestic passengers during 1992-93, this was an increase of 63,101 passengers or 14.2 per cent over the previous year.

The Connellan airport at Yulara, upgraded at a cost of \$5.7 million, handled 185,690 passengers in 1992-93, reflecting a 44.6 per cent growth over 1991-92.

(*Source:* Department of Transport and Communications, Air Transport Statistics, Domestic Airlines and Department of Transport & Works 1993 Annual Report)

**TABLE 15.7 TOTAL REVENUE PASSENGERS AND AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS THROUGH NORTHERN TERRITORY'S MAJOR AIRPORTS**

<i>Airport</i>	<i>Revenue passengers</i>			<i>Aircraft movements</i>		
	<i>1990-91</i>	<i>1991-92</i>	<i>1992-93</i>	<i>1990-91</i>	<i>1991-92</i>	<i>1992-93</i>
Darwin	402,403	445,631	508,732	5,570	6,762	12,279
Alice Springs	508,816	601,529	790,371	9,742	9,808	11,312
Connellan (Yulara)	86,417	128,440	185,690	2,733	2,372	3,386

*Source:* Department of Transport and Communications

## **Public Transit Services**

Transit services are wide spread throughout the Northern Territory and provide public bus services in Darwin and Alice Springs, dedicated school bus services in the Darwin rural, Katherine, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs areas and services for people with disabilities with specially fitted vehicles in Darwin and Alice Springs.

The public bus service in Darwin is provided by a mix of 32 government owned buses and 20 private buses operated under contract to the NT Government. All other bus services including the Alice Springs public bus service (ASBUS), dedicated school bus services and special services for people with disabilities are operated by private contractors.

During the year public transit services carried 4.09 million passengers which were made up as follows:

- Darwin Public Bus Service 2,870,000
- Alice Springs Public Bus Service 150,000
- Dedicated School Bus Service 1,029,000
- Special Bus Service 38,000

**TABLE 15.8 DARWIN BUS SERVICE**

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Buses in service	46	46	46	46	46	42
Route kilometres	km	576	537	534	528	528
Kilometres run	'000	2,508	2,629	2,698	2,600	2,606
Passengers carried	'000	2,353	2,889	2,848	3,053	2,778
						2,870

*Source:* NT Department of Transport and Works.

## **Motor Vehicle Registration**

The number of new motor vehicles registered in the Northern Territory increased by 19 per cent in 1992-93 to 5,811 (Table 15.7). This compared to a 4 per cent increase nationally. The number of new motor vehicles per 1,000 mean population in the Territory rose to 34.7 in 1992-93, marginally higher than the national figure of 31.0 per 1,000.

In the Northern Territory, 68.8 per cent of new motor vehicles registered were passenger vehicles, 23.0 per cent were light commercial vehicles which included utilities and panel vans and the remaining 8.2 per cent were buses and trucks. New bus registrations more than doubled in 1992-93 to 307. Toyota was the most popular make of new passenger vehicles with 30.8 per cent of new registrations, followed by Holden (16.8 per cent), Ford (15.6 per cent), and Mitsubishi (12.8 per cent).

**TABLE 15.9 MOTOR VEHICLES (a) ON REGISTER AT 30 JUNE**

	New motor vehicles registered (a)	New motor vehicles per 1,000 people (b)	Number of passenger vehicles ('000)	Other motor vehicles (c) ('000)	Total motor vehicles ('000)	Number of motor cycles ('000)	Number of motor vehicles per 1,000 people (b)
1987-88	4,016	25.6	42.8	26.0	68.8	3.7	440.5
1988-89	5,294	33.9	45.8	26.9	72.7	4.0	465.7
1989-90	5,472	35.0	48.2	27.2	75.4	4.1	479.7
1990-91	5,023	31.7	50.4	26.6	77.0	4.2	486.1
1991-92	4,883	29.0	49.9	27.1	77.0	3.8	456.7
1992-93	5,811	34.7	52.2	27.7	79.9	3.8	474.7

(a) Excludes motor cycles, tractors, plant and equipment, caravans and trailers (b) Estimated resident population at 31 March

(c) Includes light commercials, trucks and buses

Source: ABS Catalogue 9304.0

## Road Traffic Accidents

While the number of fatal road accidents has declined along with the number of fatalities over the past 3 years, the number of non-injury accidents in 1993 has increased 55 per cent over the same period. There were 40 fatal accidents in 1993 resulting in 43 deaths.

Of the 40 fatal accidents, 27 occurred in rural areas; 23 were alcohol related; 20 were speed related; 17 were vehicle rollovers; and 10 resulted in the death of pedestrians.

Of the 43 fatalities in 1993, 35 were males; 22 were not wearing an available seat belt; 15 were passengers; and 3 were rear tray passengers.

There were 794 accidents in which 1,182 people were injured in 1993. Of these accidents, 190 were vehicle rollovers, and 91 involved pedestrians.

Of the 1,182 people injured in 1993, 765 were males; 509 were drivers; 137 were motor cyclists; 91 were pedestrians; 67 were pedal cyclists; and 46 were rear tray passengers.

As from the 1 January 1994, riding in the loading tray of a vehicle is prohibited unless an approved roll cage has been fitted to the vehicle. This measure was enacted in response to the number of rear tray passengers killed or injured in road accidents.



Aerial Medical Service which covers the Top End of the Northern Territory while the Royal Flying Doctor Service provides for the Centre.

*Photo: Courtesy of Health and Community Services.*

**TABLE 15.10 REPORTED MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS**

Year	Number of accidents	Non-injury accidents	Injury accidents	Number of people injured	Fatal accidents	Number of fatalities
1981	1,948	1,081	804	1,203	63	70
1982	1,838	1,030	756	1,074	52	60
1983	1,653	941	666	1,001	46	49
1984	1,968	1,103	820	1,192	45	50
1985	2,320	1,227	1,034	1,477	59	67
1986	2,170	1,169	938	1,381	63	71
1987	2,105	1,177	848	1,279	80	84
1988	2,013	1,137	830	1,190	46	51
1989	2,038	1,121	861	1,191	56	60
1990	2,008	1,084	870	1,387	54	68
1991	1,750	945	745	1,114	60	67
1992	1,722	971	709	1,071	42	54
1993	2,295	1,461	794	1,182	40	43

Source: NT Police Service, Road Accident Statistics

## Roads

The Territory has a road network of 31,000 km made up of roads forming the national network, state arterials and local roads. Responsibility for local roads was transferred to local government in 1992-93. Some 52 Community Government Councils and Associations will now receive untied grants via the NT Grants Commission from the Commonwealth Government, for the upkeep of 8,200 km of their local roads. The remaining 14,000 km of local roads remain the responsibility of the Department of Transport & Works.

**TABLE 15.11 NORTHERN TERRITORY ROADS (a)**

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
	km					
Bitumen or concrete	5,597	5,649	5,681	5,690	5,701	5,812
Gravel, crushed stone, etc	5,446	5,808	5,959	5,950	5,940	6,646
Formed clay	4,788	4,507	4,604	4,605	4,605	5,154
Cleared or natural surface only	4,229	4,148	4,144	4,144	4,144	2,800
<b>Total roads</b>	<b>20,060</b>	<b>20,112</b>	<b>20,388</b>	<b>20,389</b>	<b>20,390</b>	<b>20,412</b>

(a) At 30 June. Excludes roads in towns, local government areas, park roads and roads on Aboriginal land.

Source: NT Department of Transport and Works



Road Train.

*Photo: Courtesy of Ian Krakouer.*

# CHAPTER 16 RETAIL TRADE

## Retail Turnover

In 1992-93, turnover from retail and selected service establishments in the Northern Territory totalled \$1,086 million, an increase of 10.2 per cent over 1991-92. This growth rate is greater than the 3.4 per cent recorded nationally (Table 16.1). In the previous year, Northern Territory had also recorded a higher growth rate in retail turnover than the Australian average.

TABLE 16.1 TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS(a)  
AT CURRENT PRICES, AUSTRALIA AND NORTHERN TERRITORY

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>\$ million</i>	<i>% change</i>	<i>% CPI change</i>
Australia			
1990-91	89,095	7.0	5.3
1991-92	93,373	4.8	1.9
1992-93	96,523	3.4	1.0
Northern Territory			
1990-91	931	10.5	5.7
1991-92	985	5.8	2.2
1992-93	1,086	10.2	1.4

(a) Excludes motor vehicle, parts, petrol etc

Source: ABS Catalogues 8501.0 and 6401.0

The turnover of food stores, liquor stores and licensed clubs forms the greatest proportion of retail turnover in the Northern Territory (Table 16.2). In 1992-93, these stores accounted for 67.4 per cent of the turnover of retail and selected service establishments in the Northern Territory. Grocers, confectioners and tobacconists accounted for 42.6 per cent of the total turnover and hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs accounted for 13.0 per cent of total turnover.

**TABLE 16.2 TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS(a) BY INDUSTRY  
AT CURRENT PRICES**

Industry description	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
	\$ million		
Food stores, liquor stores and licensed clubs -			
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	386.6	414.8	462.8
Butchers	19.6	10.8	9.7
Other food stores (b)	45.8	50.9	55.7
Hotel, liquor stores, licensed clubs	131.7	139.7	141.0
Cafes, restaurants	31.1	37.0	62.4
<i>Total food stores, liquor stores etc</i>	<i>614.8</i>	<i>653.2</i>	<i>731.6</i>
All other stores -			
Clothing, fabric stores	47.8	49.1	42.4
Department, general, footwear stores	73.5	74.9	78.9
Domestic hardware stores, jewellers	23.7	28.6	29.5
Electrical goods stores	53.6	53.6	64.0
Furniture, floor coverings stores	24.6	23.7	29.3
Pharmacies	20.4	22.9	22.7
Newsagents	27.1	34.6	37.7
Other stores (c)	45.1	45.2	49.9
<i>Total all other stores</i>	<i>315.8</i>	<i>332.6</i>	<i>354.4</i>
<b>Total all stores</b>	<b>931.2</b>	<b>985.1</b>	<b>1,085.5</b>

(a) Excludes motor vehicle, parts, petrol etc (b) Includes fruit and vegetable, bread and cake, take away food stores and milk bars (c) Includes sport and toy, photographic equipment, second hand goods stores and nurseries and florists

Source: ABS Retail Business Survey

Monthly retail turnover for the Northern Territory to some extent reflects the pattern for Australia. Christmas shopping makes December the best month for retailers which is followed by a decline in retail turnover activity over the next few months (Table 16.3). The seasonal increase in tourism between the months of May and August results in a significant rise in retail turnover during these months.

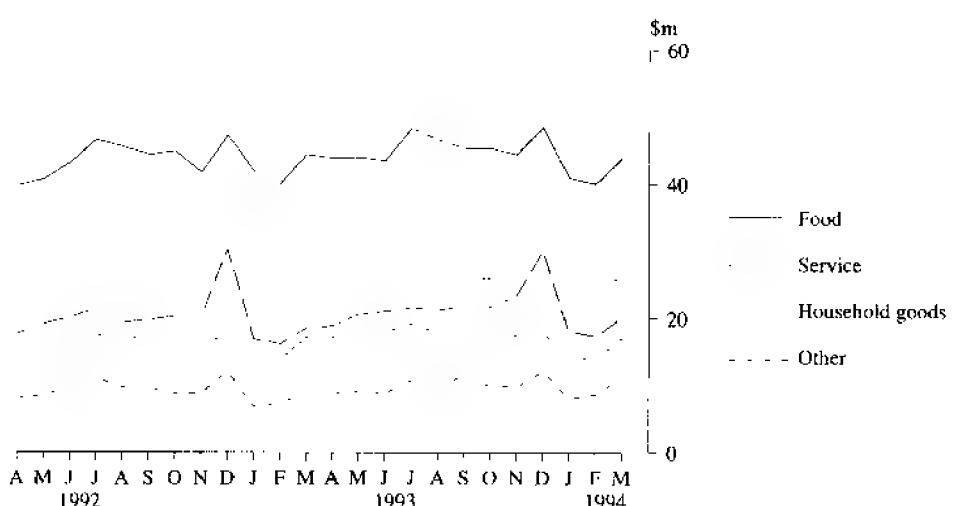
**TABLE 16.3 TURNOVER OF RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS(a) MONTHLY ESTIMATES AT CURRENT PRICES, NORTHERN TERRITORY**

	<i>Personal</i>		<i>household</i>		<i>Household</i>		<i>Service</i>		<i>Other</i>		<i>Total retail</i>	
	<i>Food</i>		<i>household</i>		<i>Household</i>		<i>Service</i>		<i>Other</i>		<i>Total retail</i>	
					\$ million							
	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93
July	41.7	46.6	11.7	11.7	8.5	9.8	16.8	17.5	8.5	11.0	87.3	96.6
August	41.6	45.6	11.4	10.1	9.1	9.3	15.3	17.0	9.3	9.9	86.7	91.9
September	38.4	44.4	9.9	9.8	8.5	9.9	16.0	17.0	8.5	9.5	81.4	90.6
October	40.7	44.9	10.6	10.0	8.8	10.3	15.2	18.4	8.7	8.8	84.0	92.5
November	38.4	41.8	10.4	10.1	9.0	10.2	14.3	16.2	8.2	8.7	80.3	87.1
December	39.2	47.2	15.6	15.4	11.5	15.0	14.6	17.6	10.9	12.2	91.8	107.4
January	36.9	41.9	9.0	8.5	7.3	8.6	13.9	15.1	6.7	6.8	73.7	80.9
February	36.5	39.9	8.2	7.3	7.3	8.8	13.2	13.7	7.5	7.4	72.7	77.2
March	39.0	44.3	7.7	8.5	8.4	10.2	13.8	17.2	8.0	8.9	76.9	89.0
April	39.8	43.8	9.1	8.9	8.6	9.8	12.7	17.2	8.0	9.0	78.3	88.7
May	40.8	44.1	9.9	10.2	9.3	10.5	14.6	18.2	8.5	9.3	83.0	92.2
June	43.2	43.6	10.4	10.6	9.6	10.5	16.1	18.0	9.7	8.8	89.0	91.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>476.2</b>	<b>528.1</b>	<b>123.9</b>	<b>121.1</b>	<b>106.0</b>	<b>122.8</b>	<b>176.5</b>	<b>203.2</b>	<b>102.5</b>	<b>110.4</b>	<b>985.1</b>	<b>1,085.4</b>
Monthly average	39.7	44.0	10.3	10.1	8.8	10.2	14.7	16.9	8.5	9.2	82.0	90.4

(a) Excludes motor vehicles, parts, petrol etc

Source: ABS Catalogue 8501.0

**GRAPH 16.1 RETAIL TURNOVER AT CURRENT PRICES,  
NORTHERN TERRITORY**



Note: Excludes motor vehicle dealers, service stations, etc  
Source: ABS Catalogue 8501.0

## **Shopfront Retailing**

Information on Shopfront Retailing was collected in the 1991-92 Retail and Services Census (Table 16.4). Business locations classified in-scope and operating a shopfront location at 30 June 1992 were included.

Businesses which ceased operations during the year July 1991 to June 1992 were excluded. The business unit about which information was collected and published for the Retail and Selected Services Census is the location.

Darwin and Palmerston recorded 56.7 per cent (\$535.4 million) of turnover for the Northern Territory. Nakara (which includes Casuarina Shopping Centre), Darwin Inner City, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Nhulunbuy recorded turnover figures of \$188.7 million, \$123.5 million, \$189.1 million, \$22.9 million, \$51.8 million and \$23.0 million respectively. Total shopfront retail turnover for the Territory was \$943.9 million.

In the Northern Territory at 30 June 1992, food retailing accounted for 56.4 per cent (\$532 million) of turnover, 49.8 per cent (4,545) of persons employed and 44.4 per cent (136,000 sq.m) of floorspace. Of the people employed in food retailing 50.8 per cent (2,310) were in full time-employment and of these 51.9 per cent (1,198) were female. For part-time employees 65.1 per cent were female. Supermarkets and grocery stores accounted for 81.2 per cent (\$432 million) of food retailing turnover, 62.2 per cent (2,827) of employment and 80.1 per cent (109,000 sq.m) of floorspace.

In 1991-92, Personal and household goods retailing accounted for 36.3 per cent (\$343 million) of total shopfront retail turnover in the Territory, 31.2 per cent (2,917) of total persons employed, and 43.5 per cent (133,000 sq. m) of total floorspace. The largest contributor to turnover from this industry was Domestic appliance retailing (\$40 million), the largest contributor to persons employed was Clothing retailing (356 persons), and the largest contributor to floorspace was Domestic hardware and houseware retailing (15,000 sq.m).

In 1991-92, Selected personal services (which includes cafes and restaurants, optical dispensing, laundries and dry-cleaners, hairdressing and beauty salons, photographic film processing and video hire outlets) accounted for 7.4 per cent (\$70 million) of total shopfront retail turnover in the Territory, 18.2 per cent (1,659) of total persons employed, and 12.4 per cent (38,000 sq.m) of total floorspace.

**TABLE 16.4 SHOPFRONT RETAILING (a) SELECTED DATA 30 JUNE 1992**

	<i>Number of locations</i>	<i>Persons employed</i>	<i>Floorspace '000 sq. m</i>	<i>Turnover \$ million</i>
<b>FOOD RETAILING</b>				
<b>Supermarket and Grocery Stores</b>	158	2,827	109	432
<b>Specialised Food Retailing</b>				
Fresh Meat, Fish and Poultry Retailing	30	129	3	16
Fruit and Vegetable Retailing	3	15	1	1
Liquor Retailing	9	44	2	14
Bread and Cake Retailing	21	110	2	5
Takeaway Food Retailing	194	1,378	19	59
Specialised Food Retailing n.e.c.	11	42	1	5
<i>Total Specialised Food Retailing</i>	268	1,718	27	100
<b>TOTAL FOOD RETAILING</b>	426	4,545	136	532
<b>PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>				
<b>Department Stores</b>	3	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
<b>Clothing and Soft Goods</b>				
Clothing Retailing	108	356	12	38
Footwear Retailing	19	67	2	9
Fabrics and Other Soft Good Retailing	26	69	4	5
<i>Total Clothing and Soft Good Retailing</i>	153	492	18	52
<b>Furniture, Houseware and Appliances</b>				
Furniture Retailing	15	71	10	13
Floor Covering Retailing	7	21	4	5
Domestic Hardware and Houseware Retailing	23	194	15	19
Domestic Appliance Retailing	35	156	9	40
Recorded Music Retailing	10	52	1	7
<i>Total Furniture, Houseware and Appliance Retailing</i>	90	494	39	85

For footnote see end of table

**TABLE 16.4 SHOPFRONT RETAILING (a) SELECTED DATA: 30 JUNE 1992** (Cont.)

	<i>Number of locations</i>	<i>Persons employed</i>	<i>Floorspace '000 sq m</i>	<i>Turnover \$million</i>
<b>Recreational Goods</b>				
Sport and Camping Equipment Retailing	23	83	4	12
Toy and Game Retailing	7	36	2	5
Newspaper, Book and Stationery Retailing	50	248	9	34
Photographic Equipment Retailing	8	44	1	6
Marine Equipment Retailing	4	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
<i>Total Recreational Good Retailing</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	<i>n.p.</i>
<b>Other Personal And Household Goods</b>				
Pharmaceutical, Cosmetic and Toiletry Retailing	28	234	5	27
Antique and Used Good Retailing	30	68	5	5
Garden Supplies Retailing	11	39	13	2
Flower Retailing	14	42	1	2
Watch and Jewellery Retailing	25	117	2	12
Retailing n.e.c.	107	342	10	25
<i>Total Other Personal and Household Good Retailing</i>	<i>215</i>	<i>842</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>73</i>
<b>Household Equipment Repair Services</b>				
Household Equipment Repair Services (Electrical)	24	90	3	4
Household Equipment Repair Services n.e.c.	7	11	..	1
<i>Total Household Equipment Repair Services</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS RETAILING</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>2,917</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>343</b>
<b>SELECTED PERSONAL SERVICES</b>				
Cafes and Restaurants	108	981	20	37
Optical Dispensing (b)	6	32	1	3
Laundries and Dry cleaners	20	47	2	2
Hairdressing and Beauty Salons	92	364	6	10
Photographic Film Processing	21	57	2	6
Video Hire Outlets	37	178	8	12
<b>TOTAL SELECTED PERSONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>TOTAL SHOPFRONT RETAILING</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>9,121</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>944</b>

(a) Shopfront retailing includes retail and retail related personal services (b) Excluded are businesses mainly engaging in testing sight, diagnosing sight defects or in prescribing spectacles or contact lenses

Source: ABS Catalogue 8623.7

**TABLE 16.5 MOTOR VEHICLE RETAILING AND SERVICES: 30 JUNE 1992**

	<i>Number of locations</i>	<i>Persons employed</i>	<i>Turnover \$million</i>
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE RETAILING AND SERVICES</b>			
<b>Motor Vehicle Retailing</b>			
Car retailing	42	536	186
Motor Cycle Dealing	9	n.p.	n.p.
Trailer and Caravan Dealing	5	n.p.	n.p.
<i>Total Motor Vehicle Retailing</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>596</i>	<i>194</i>
<b>Motor Vehicle Services</b>			
Automotive fuel retailing	94	809	162
Automotive electrical services	22	138	24
Smash repairing	44	200	14
Tyre repairing	24	147	34
Automotive repair and service n.e.c.	140	532	36
<i>Total Motor Vehicle Services</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>1,826</i>	<i>270</i>
<b>TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE RETAILING AND SERVICES</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>2,422</b>	<b>464</b>

Source: ABS Catalogue 8623.7

In the motor vehicle retailing and services sector, motor vehicle services accounted for 58.2 per cent (\$270 million) of turnover and 75.4 per cent (1,826) of persons employed. Car retailing accounted for 40.0 per cent (\$186 million) of turnover and 22 per cent (536) of persons employed whilst automotive fuel retailing accounted for 34.9 per cent (\$162 million) of turnover and 33.4 per cent (809) of persons employed.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTS RELATING TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Publications relating to the Northern Territory may be obtained by ringing the Information Services Section of the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Darwin on (089) 432 111; calling at the 5th Floor, MLC Building, 81 Smith St, Darwin; by writing to Information Services, GPO Box 3796, Darwin, NT 0801; or by faxing your request on (089) 811218. Ask for our Catalogue of Publications and Products 1994 (ABS Catalogue 1101.0) for a full listing of publications available and prices.

### CATALOGUE

NUMBER	TITLE
1115.0	ABS Colonial Microfiche - Catalogue of Australian Statistical Publications 1804-1901
1117.0	About Women - An Index of Information
1130.0	Directory of Tourism Statistics 1991
1331.0	Statistics - A Powerful Edge! ....A Statistical Guide
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2710.7	1991 Census - Census Characteristics of Northern Territory
2714.7	1991 Census - Customised Matrixes, Northern Territory
2722.7	1991 Census - Community Profiles and Comparisons, Northern Territory
2801.7	1991 Census - Final Counts for Selected Areas: Northern Territory
2802.7	1991 Census - Final Counts of Persons by Age and Sex for Statistical Local Areas, NT
2840.7	1991 Census - Social Atlas - Darwin
3201.7	Estimated Resident Population of Selected Areas, Northern Territory
4102.0	Australian Social Trends, 1994
4107.7	Northern Territory's Indigenous People
4108.7	Sport and Recreation, Urban Northern Territory, 1991
4123.7	Northern Territory's Young People
4364.0	National Health Survey
4385.0	A Social Health Atlas of Australia
5460.7	Foreign Trade Service
7113.7	Agriculture and Fishing, Northern Territory
8221.7	Manufacturing Industry, Northern Territory
8622.7	Retail Industry: Details of Operations, Northern Territory
8623.7	Retail and Selected Service Industries: Small Area Statistics
8635.7	Tourist Accommodation, Northern Territory
8731.7	Building Approvals, Northern Territory
8752.7	Building Activity, Northern Territory
9215.7	Bicycles, Urban Northern Territory, 1991

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics Unit is located in the Darwin Office and is responsible for production and release of statistics about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Data on a range of subjects relating to Australia's Indigenous people is available from a variety of sources and staff in the unit are pleased to advise on availability and application. Phone 089 432192 or fax 089 410 715.



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